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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Al-Shar', Peres Said To Hold 'Secret' Meeting

JN0811142794 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 5 Nov 94
p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed diplomatic sources have told AL-BILAD that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', met secretly in Cairo on Monday [7 November] following the latter's surprise visit to Cairo that same day.

The sources said that al-Shar' and Peres have reached a full agreement on withdrawal from the Golan, under which Syria agreed to a timetable for withdrawal over 16 months. The two sides have also reached an agreement on security arrangements between them, the sources added.

The same sources said the meeting crowned the talks U.S. President Bill Clinton held in Damascus, during which he succeeded in convincing the Syrian leadership to hold a high-level meeting between the two sides.

'Arafat, Rabin Meet; 'Positive' Results Cited

TA0811171094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500
GMT 8 Nov 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal at the Erez checkpoint on 8 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Segal] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint ended approximately 30 minutes ago. Within a week, the Palestinian Authority [PA] will be given responsibility for another four spheres in Judea and Samaria. Israel has also promised to permit another 10,000 Palestinian from the territories to work in Israel. With regard to the issue of terrorism, Rabin and 'Arafat settled on a general statement that reiterated each side's commitment to implement its obligations as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

Within two weeks, the PLO and Israeli delegations will meet to discuss all issues pertaining to the interim accord. Initially, Prime Minister Rabin had sought to limit the debate to the issue of elections and only afterwards to discuss the withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops during the elections and their subsequent redeployment. However, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres came out in favor of a comprehensive discussion and ultimately convinced Rabin to accept his position.

Today, 'Arafat and Rabin agreed that the joint Israeli-Palestinian delegation would hold comprehensive talks on 21 November. If necessary, the prime minister said, subcommittees would also be established. Rabin specified the different issues that would be included in the next stage of the DOP's implementation.

[Rabin] Elections, the redeployment of IDF troops, security arrangements, the early empowerment—all the issues linked to the next stage of the DOP's implementation. These negotiations will undoubtedly be complex, and we, as Israelis, have to guarantee all the security components. I cannot give you an assessment of the timeframe for these negotiations.

[Segal] Rabin informed 'Arafat that responsibility for four additional spheres in the West Bank would be transferred to the Palestinians by the end of next week. Within the framework of early empowerment, the Palestinians have already received responsibility for the field of education in the West Bank. Now, they will be granted responsibility for welfare, taxes, tourism, and transportation. Rabin said that Israel was able to guarantee the transfer of these responsibilities by the end of next week after the donor states had promised to supply the necessary funding by the end of November. PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat spoke about cooperation in implementing the current stage.

['Arafat, in English] And we hope, in this atmosphere and this attitude, we will follow up to implement accurately and honestly what we had agreed upon.

[Segal translates above remarks and continues] Several more understandings were reached in the course of this meeting, which was split up into two parts. At an earlier meeting among Rabin, Peres, and Sarid on the Israeli side and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh on behalf of the Palestinians, it was agreed that Israel would issue permits to an additional 10,000 laborers from the territories for work in Israel. There was also an Israeli commitment to permit the transport of goods through the Rafah checkpoint, as stipulated in the DOP. Both parties also agreed to allow Palestinian merchants with permits to conduct their business inside Israeli territory.

The issue of terrorism was also addressed in very general terms. Both parties promised to uphold their commitments as stated in the DOP. The PA chairman made slightly more specific and comprehensive statements in Arabic at the news conference following the meeting. [passage omitted]

Clearly, 'Arafat said, we will all exert supreme efforts to ensure the success of the peace process and to remove the obstacles in its way. We will take action against any party, regardless of its size, that forcefully attempts to oppose the process, the PLO chairman concluded.

When asked whether he believed Israel was behind Hani 'Abid's assassination, 'Arafat refused to comment. The PA chairman nevertheless made an interesting statement at the news conference. He publicly stated his support for the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, expressed his general support for the peace process, and voiced hope that Israel would soon reach peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon. 'Arafat's remarks were

translated by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a member of the Palestinian delegation. At the end of the meeting, we asked Abu-Zayyad to point to the Palestinians' main achievement today:

[Abu-Zayyad] The main achievement is that we are continuing negotiations and making progress in the talks. At the end of the week, we will receive responsibility for at least four fields.

[Segal] Do you see any significance in the fact that, perhaps for the first time, Prime Minister Rabin has agreed to discuss the entire spectrum of issues pertaining to the interim accord and not to limit discussion to specific details as he had sought to do in the past.

[Abu-Zayyad] That is a positive development.

[Segal] Did you discuss the release of prisoners?

[Abu-Zayyad] We discussed many issues, including this matter.

[Segal] What about terrorism? The Israeli public is very concerned about this issue. There is a feeling that the PA is not doing enough to fight extremists from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

[Abu-Zayyad] We agreed that each party would uphold the commitments it made under the agreement.

[Segal] People are always interested about the atmosphere between 'Arafat and Rabin. How would you describe the atmosphere at today's meeting?

[Abu-Zayyad] The atmosphere at the meeting was good.

[Segal] The bottom line of today's meeting at the Erez checkpoint is that it marks the beginning of the next stage of negotiations with the Palestinians, in the comprehensive sense, with regard to both elections in the territories and the withdrawal of IDF troops from Palestinian population centers in the West Bank, while continuing to guarantee security, which, Prime Minister Rabin asserted, will remain under Israeli control. The negotiations will be at least as difficult as, if not more difficult than, the negotiations conducted over the first stage—Gaza and Jericho First—which lasted eight months. The current phase of negotiations may take even longer.

Jordanian Delegate on Dead Sea Disarmament Talks

JN0811151494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The multilateral committee on disarmament in the Middle East is now holding talks at a Dead Sea hotel here in Jordan. Political and military experts from 20 countries, including Russia, Israel, and Arab states, will discuss efforts to curb arms proliferation in the region. The participants will study establishing a regional center on arms control and the prevention of conflict in the Middle East.

Head of the Jordanian delegation to the talks 'Abdallah Tuqan spoke to Radio Jordan on the nature of the meetings:

[Begin Tuqan recording] The arms control regional security process has been divided into two basic baskets, you might say. One, which we call, a conception basket, one an operational basket. The operational basket, which is taking place at the moment in Jordan, pertains to a large number of military operational issues, such as exchange of information between militaries, prenotification of military exercises and activities, search and rescue, and maritime confidence security building measures. It also contains the establishment of, let's say, database systems, a data bank of the type of weapons that are in this area, and that's where the issue of who does have nuclear weapons, or any other type of mass destruction weapons in the area, be it biological, chemical, or nuclear. Hence, this is this where the subject came in, as to whether Israel would declare it has or does not have.

Another subject, within this basket that we discussed all day yesterday was the establishment of a conflict prevention center and a regional security center for the Middle East, something in the lines of the one that has been established in Europe, but more tailored to our requirements in this area. The countries that are involved in this, with us in this operational basket, are basically those that have been chairing these subjects. So these are the countries that are involved with us, especially in this operational basket. This is what we call an inter-sessional workshop. This would be drawing up recommendations, conclusions to be presented to the plenary session that will take place in Tunis when all the delegates of the delegations of the region, as well as the extra-regional countries, actually all the regional delegations, are present at the moment in this particular basket that is taking place in Jordan. There are also extra-regional countries that would be involved with us, and that is when, let's say, the recommendations will be taken into consideration, and there will be, let's say, agreements in the plenary to continue in particular areas, to put up some, let's say, exercises to implement some activities and to further study some further activities. [end recording]

Further on Jordanian Delegate's Remarks

JN0911094694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Confidence-building measures among the countries of the Middle East, including prior notification of army exercises and joint rescue efforts in sea and on land, are the focus of a two-day meeting of the main members of the multilateral working group of arms control that opened at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel on Monday [7 November].

A concrete proposal expected to be studied by the meeting, attended by 22 countries including Jordan and

Israel, is for the establishment of a "conflict-prevention and regional security centre" in the Middle East.

The issue of eliminating the presence of weapons of mass destruction in the region was not expected to be taken up during this meeting, described as "operative basket" of controlling proliferation of arms among the countries.

Addressing the opening session, Jordan's chief delegate 'Abdallah Tuqan said the Kingdom believed that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 "will be pivotal towards the establishment of a broad structural framework of security and cooperation in the Middle East region, as well as to the establishment of institutes and mechanisms to form a link with the global security environment.

"Military and non-military components can be integrated into a comprehensive security regime that can organise response to possible sources of conflict and deter any force of aggression," he said.

The topics to be discussed in this intersessional operational basket of the arms control and regional security working group, such as search and rescue for humanitarian purposes, to confidence and security building measures between militaries, in the exchange of information, pre-notifications of military exercises and activities, and the establishment of a communication network system, ...lie at the very heart of the new security environment," Dr. Tuqan said.

Dr. Tuqan noted that the idea of establishing "a regional conflict preventing resolution and crisis management centre" was discussed in informal talks among delegates on Monday and expressed hope that the proposal would receive a boost during this week's meetings.

Among the first step towards setting up such a centre is an undertaking by all countries in the region to provide complete information of all the weapons they possess with a view to setting up a data bank on arms in the Middle East, long known to be the most lucrative market for the Western arms industry.

Observers believe that Israel, which has for long refused to acknowledge its reported nuclear arsenal, would balk at providing such information. So far, it has only said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Major-General David Ivry, hinted, however, his country, widely believed to possess more than 200 nuclear warheads, would be willing to address the nuclear fears of the countries of the region at the "appropriate time."

Israeli delegates also said that the absence of key countries such as Syria, Iraq, Iran and Libya limited the scope of the work of the multilateral working group on arms control, one of five, and urged them to join the discussions.

"We're looking forward to cooperating with Arab countries on the whole range of security issues, and we would like to find how this process addresses our concerns and those of everybody else," Gen. Ivry told the Associated Press.

Gen Ivry said: "We've repeatedly made statements that we see this process creating the climate and the atmosphere that will make it possible to deal satisfactory with this issue at the appropriate time."

"There are interesting ideas on the table, not only for exchanging information but for cooperating in certain areas, visits contacts voluntary information exchange, they are very important," said Mr. Ivry, director-general of Israel's Defence Ministry and a former air force commander.

Frederic Axelgard, a senior U.S. State Department official and veteran of arms control negotiations, said the issue of nuclear weapons was not expected to be discussed during the current meeting.

"This issue will be discussed in what we call our conceptual basket," he told the AP. "This meeting's an operational basket, and we've divided our work. This week we won't be discussing the issue of weapons of mass destruction."

Before the meeting opened, Dr. Tuqan expressed hope that Israel would soon join a ban on nuclear weapons.

"Next year, there is going to be a lot of conventions and treaties, and I hope that Israel will re-look into all of those and will start considering the importance of its joining in," Dr. Tuqan was quoted as saying by REUTERS.

The issue of Israel's nuclear weapons and related programmes was raised in the meetings of the regional working group of the environment, which said it feared Israeli dumping of radioactive material in the desert could be a main source of pollution in the area.

But Israel resisted the Egyptian demands, saying the issue of nuclear programmes could not be discussed by the working group on environment but by the group on arms control and security.

Gen. Ivry, the Israeli ministry officials, told Tuesday's opening session that his country sought to "broaden the dialogue further to accommodate all states of the region not before too long." [sentence as published]

That appeared to be a reference to regional powers like Iraq, Iran and Syria which are not yet part of the quest for military stability in the Middle East.

Gen. Ivry also told reporters that the absence of key countries "limits the scope of the work of the working group and that "if they came in and joined us, we could be more productive."

Countries participating in the meeting include Egypt, France, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen as well as the U.S. and Russia, cosponsors of the three-year old Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Dead Sea meeting comes ahead of a full session of the working group on regional arms control and security to be held in Tunis on Dec. 15.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Welcomes Iraq's Recognition of Kuwait

NC0811170494 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT
8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 8 (AFP)—Iraq's recognition of Kuwait is an "important decision" that should stabilize the Gulf region, Arab League Secretary General 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid said Tuesday [8 November].

"I think this decision is the beginning of a process which I hope will lead to a normal situation in the area and that all the consequences of the August 1990 (Iraqi invasion of Kuwait) will be solved," 'Abd-al-Majid told AFP.

He stressed the recognition "should be completed by the implementation of remaining UN Security Council resolutions ... so there will be security in the region."

It was "premature" to say whether the League would move to have the Security Council lift the international embargo on Iraq, imposed after the 1990 invasion.

But 'Abd-al-Majid added "certainly one of the main consequences of this decision is to look into the embargo."

Iraq on Tuesday recognized the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait as set out by UN Security Council Resolution 833, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry said Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, visiting Moscow, gave Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev a letter recognising Kuwait from President Saddam Husayn.

The recognition of Kuwait by Baghdad is one of the UN conditions to lift sanctions. Other conditions include the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the implementation of long-term monitoring of its weapons programme.

The Security Council, which reviews the embargo every two months, is to carry out its next review on November 14.

Iraq massed thousands of troops along its border with Kuwait early last month, sparking fears of a repeat invasion of the emirate.

Israeli Division of Hebron Sanctuary Condemned

NC0811164994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT
8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat strongly condemned the Israeli division of the Ibrahimi Sanctuary in Hebron between Jews and Muslims, giving the Jews the lion's share and turning it into a military barracks.

In a statement today, the secretariat reiterated that the Israeli measure constitutes a clear provocation of Muslim feelings everywhere, as well as a blatant violation of all the international treaties, agreements, and charters.

The secretariat stressed in its statement that this measure creates an atmosphere of hostility that undermines, obstructs, and hampers the progress of the peace process.

The secretariat pointed out that the Israeli measure increases people's rage, helps elements of tension grow stronger, and conflicts with regional and international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 252.

The secretariat pointed out that the Israeli measure seeks to erase the Islamic features of the sanctuary, which goes back 1,300 years, and confirms Israel's ambition to tighten its grip on [words indistinct]. It noted that the horrid massacre the Israeli settlers committed inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque on 25 February, which claimed the lives of over 30 Palestinian worshippers, was the excuse to close the sanctuary and thus prepare for partitioning it.

The Arab League General Secretariat appealed to the cosponsors of the peace process and all the international organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to implement the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 904 that condemned the massacre and affirmed that the 4th Geneva Convention applies to the territories Israel occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and to make Israel shoulder the responsibilities stipulated by that resolution.

The secretariat appealed to the world community to take all the necessary measures to preserve the integrity of the Ibrahimi Sanctuary and its Islamic features and bar the Israeli measure that constitutes a blatant desecration of the holy places that Muslims hold in great esteem.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 1 Nov

NC0811135394

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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5. Ulema, Thinkers Comment on Mubarak Decrees on Democracy
6. Egyptian Film Viewed as Harmful to Islamic Shari'ah
7. Writer Negatively Views Controversial Novel by Najib Mahfuz
8. Should Sex Education Be Offered in Schools?

BOSNIAN 'VICTORIES' NOTED; EDITOR SEES UN 'CONSPIRACY'

Under the banner headline "Sweeping Victories for Muslims in Bosnia", the newspaper leads with a 150-word unattributed report saying that the Bosnian Government forces managed to regain more than 250 square kilometers of territory from Serbian "occupation."

—In the course of a religious lecture given by some ulema at the headquarters of the Central Security forces in Cairo, an account of which is given in an approximately 4,000-word report by Mamduh al-'Ashri on pages 4 and 5, a person from the audience asks the panel about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. 'AQIDATI's chief editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf reportedly answers: "Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina are the target of an international conspiracy implemented through the UN Security Council in the name of the new world order." However, he notes Islamic awakening and says that Islam is spreading rapidly in the West, especially among the elite and educated people. He blames failure to help Bosnians on the lack of unity in the Islamic world.

ISLAMIC COUNCIL URGES UNITY OVER JERUSALEM ISSUE

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 says the World Islamic Council for Preaching and Relief has appealed to the Islamic Conference Organization and the Arab League to unite Islamic and Arab work to uphold the cause of Jerusalem as the mainstay of any peaceful settlement between the Arabs and Israel. The council warns against Israel's "trick" to create conflicts between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority over Jerusalem, and calls for a unified position over "the fateful" issue of the holy city.

GRAND IMAM DISCUSSES AL-AZHAR ROLE IN SERVING ISLAM

In an approximately 1,000-word article on page 7, al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq highlights the past and present role of al-Azhar in serving the Islamic message. He points out that al-Azhar sends delegations to the various parts of the

Islamic world to spread the right word of Islam, and he notes that al-Azhar local and foreign graduates are educating the generations and holding judicial and administrative positions through which they serve Arab and Islamic thought. He concludes that al-Azhar "honestly and rightfully reflects Islam's moderation and fairness, working wisely and carefully to show Islam's position on every new development and event, in realization of the slogan that Islam, because it comes from God, is applicable anywhere and at any time."

AL-GHAZALI WARNS AGAINST 'FALSE RELIGIOUSNESS'

Islamic scholar Muhammad al-Ghazali contributes a 250-word article on page 6 in which he says that some men of religion are very poor in their Islamic education, preferring to remain stagnant rather than develop. He mentions those who still do not believe that the earth is round and that it turns. He then says: "It is only in a free atmosphere that extremism dies and the extremists disappear sooner or later." He adds: "But political corruption does not justify deviation from ideology or Islamic jurisprudence, and religiousness is not a cover for flaws but a purification from them and an immunity against them. My experience has taught me to disdain false religiousness and to always warn against its consequences."

ULEMA, THINKERS COMMENT ON MUBARAK DECREES ON DEMOCRACY

Page 3 features an approximately 2,500-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah, Mahmud 'Ushb, and Majdi Za'tar citing comments by some ulema, thinkers, and lawmen on President Mubarak's recent decisions concerning democracy and political action. The mufti of the Republic, Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, welcomes Mubarak's decrees saying they respect man's dignity and spread social justice. "Therefore," he says, "these decisions are supported by the Islamic shari'ah." President of the Cairo University contends that the decisions will increase popular participation in political action. Other Islamic figures welcome the decisions as a positive step and urge further freedoms in line with the Islamic shari'ah.

EGYPTIAN FILM VIEWED AS HARMFUL TO ISLAMIC SHARI'AH

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 says that the lawsuit against "The Emigrant," a film that allegedly contains "a flagrant attack against the Prophet Joseph and harms the people of Egypt," used several critical articles that had appeared in 'AQIDATI to support the claim against the film.

—A 100-word comment by Mamduh al-'Ashri on page 18 says Yusuf Shahin, the film director, "entered the forbidden zone" in his film. He adds: "We refuse to let art harm our religious creed in the name of free thought and free art."

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**WRITER NEGATIVELY VIEWS
CONTROVERSIAL NOVEL BY NAJIB MAHFUZ**

A 700-word article by Majdi Salim on page 10 discusses Najib Mahfuz' controversial novel "Sons of Our Alley," whose publication was banned in the sixties at the recommendation of al-Azhar, and which some Egyptian newspapers have recently published after the attack on Mahfuz. Salim says he read the novel several times and understood the reason for its being banned. He says the novel's religious content and its symbolic references to God and his prophets can easily be understood even by half-educated people, and he recollects how Mahfuz once tried to evade a question as to whether the novel suggests denial of God's existence. But Salim concludes: "Despite all this, I support the publication of the novel so that everybody will know its content and how Najib Mahfuz used to think at a certain stage in his literary and intellectual life, and to give a chance to those who can counter thought with thought and words with words, not by anything else."

**SHOULD SEX EDUCATION BE OFFERED IN
SCHOOLS?**

A 2,000-word report by Ibrahim Nasr and Ahmad Ramadan on page 16 discusses whether sex education should be offered in schools. After noting that many "crimes" have been perpetrated in the West as a result of sex education in schools, the reporters ask experts and sociologists whether it is wise to offer sex lessons at Egyptian schools. The experts agree that direct sex lessons should not be offered in a conservative society like that of Egypt. They say that boys and girls can learn about sex indirectly and they stress the role of the family in this respect.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Nov
NC0811091194

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. More on Islamist Opposition to Jordanian Treaty With Israel
2. Government Harassment of Labor Party Feared
3. Casablanca Summit Debated, Criticized
4. Middle East Market Termed Path Toward Greater Israel
5. Brotherhood Spokesman Addresses Clinton
6. Education Minister Says Religious Books Not Destroyed
7. School Principal Said Punished for Allowing Veiled Students

**MORE ON ISLAMIST OPPOSITION TO
JORDANIAN TREATY WITH ISRAEL**

In a 1,200-word item on pages 1 and 6, correspondent Muna Yasin continues her reporting, begun in a previous

issue, on Islamist opposition to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. In addition to recounting the Jordanian Islamic Action's efforts to block the parliament's approval of the treaty, Yasin describes the "popular opposition" to the treaty in al-Zarqa' and Irbid, "the front's most important strongholds," as well as in Amman.

She says: "Mosque prayer imams continued denouncing the treaty from their pulpits, prompting the Jordanian security forces to launch a broad campaign of arrests and to use violence to disperse noisy demonstrations in the capital. The demonstrators protested the agreement, which they called a coup d'etat against democracy and an assault on public liberties."

After referring to the opposition groups' decision to form "a front of seven Islamic, nationalist, and leftist parties to oppose the treaty and resist the dangers of normalization and Zionist encroachment," the writer speaks of the authorities' security measures: "Jordanian police forces, backed by armored vehicles, are now stationed on the approaches to al-Zarqa' and Irbid to prevent demonstrations. Security men are deployed in force in Amman. The city's public squares have been cordoned off to preclude further disturbances."

Yasin says that the Jordanian Government is trying to "silence Islamic opposition" by reviving former laws "banning the use of mosques for political aims."

The rest of the report is about unrest in the West Bank, Gaza, and south Lebanon.

**GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT OF LABOR
PARTY FEARED**

A two-column three-inch boxed statement on page 1, signed by AL-SHA'B, refers to recent reports published by the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-WAFD saying that Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn had been seized with Islamist pamphlets in his possession. The statement sees in these reports a sign of the government's "bad intentions towards the Labor Party and its leaders and an indication that something is being clandestinely planned to terrorize the party."

The 300-word statement adds that the allegations against Husayn are false as demonstrated by the fact that he has not yet been summoned for interrogation. It urges the government to abandon "this unacceptable method."

CASABLANCA SUMMIT DEBATED, CRITICIZED

The paper's page 3 is devoted to reports on reactions to Casablanca's recently concluded economic summit. A 2,000-word report by Ashraf Khalil on a conference held by the opposition parties at the Wafd Party's newly inaugurated Cairo headquarters cites remarks by several opposition leaders on the Casablanca meeting and the proposed Middle East market. A boxed 350-word statement of the conference resolutions is included with the general report.

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Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri is cited as having launched a "fierce attack" on Moroccan King Hassan II, accusing him of paving the way for Arab-Israeli agreements, the beneficiary of which can only be Israel. Shukri disputes the claim that Israel earnestly seeks to promote economic development in the Arab countries. He calls for a boycott of both Israeli and Western goods.

Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad says that the Casablanca meeting "was a natural product of the ongoing series of Arab concessions" and a move designed to make Israel a member of the Arab League, a concept that he opposes.

Diya'-al-Din Dawud, leader of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, says that "what Israel failed to obtain through successive wars of aggression, it has now obtained by forcing us into the pen of surrender under U.S. patronage." He adds that Israel wishes "to share our water and oil resources."

Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi is optimistic about the future. He "infuses hope in the hearts of the audience, particularly the young among them, by asserting that God's true promise shows us that the destiny of those Zionists is to perish and the day of their suffering at our hands is not far off."

MIDDLE EAST MARKET TERMED PATH TOWARD GREATER ISRAEL

A 700-word article on the same page also comments on the Middle East market. The title of the article by Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Shihatah, consists of a pun on the name of the proposed market, which is rendered in the vernacular as "al-Suq al-Sharr Awsatiyah" instead of the straightforward name "al-Suq al-Sharq Awsatiyah". The word play, although ungrammatical, means: "The Market of Evil Domination." Shihatah says Israel has learned its lesson and understands now that the economic path prepared by the United States, rather than military campaigns, is its road to regional domination.

Shihatah declares: "Preparations for Greater Israel have begun as of now, even before Syria signs a peace treaty, for Syria is coming and will not be late."

BROTHERHOOD SPOKESMAN ADDRESSES CLINTON

The Muslim Brotherhood's Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur writes a 1,500-word article on page 5 under the heading: "To President Bill Clinton: Who Are the Real Enemies of Peace?"

He begins by questioning whether peace consists of usurping Palestinian territory and replacing its inhabitants with others brought from abroad. He disputes the description of those who resist occupation as terrorists and asks President Clinton how the Americans would react if someone seized an American state and replaced its inhabitants with others.

He continues: "We pose the same question to every government that approves the Zionist entity's usurpation of the land of Palestine and to those who defend the false peace."

Mashhur says that, after the Camp David Accords, a plan was put in motion to weaken the Arab countries and "subjugate them to U.S. policy." He says this plan included the eight-year Iraq-Iran war, followed by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which was designed to exhaust the Gulf countries and make them throw themselves into the West's embrace to protect them from Iraq."

He says financial aid to Jordan was stopped because it leaned toward Saddam Husayn during the crisis but was later lured over by a U.S. promise to ease its debt burden, if it signed an agreement with Israel.

Mashhur says Clinton and "those who are responsive to him are now exerting pressure on Syria to conclude an agreement with the enemy covering Syria and Lebanon."

Declaring that these agreements are made by the rulers not the people, who are left out, he asks: "Is it possible that all Arab and Islamic nations will submit to these vicious schemes?"

Mashhur continues: "The Palestinian issue is central to all Muslims, not just to some Palestinians and Arab rulers who, by this token, cannot conclude agreements that are unacceptable to the Islamic nations. Islam enjoins every Muslim to do his utmost to save Palestine and the al-Aqsa Mosque, first of the two Qiblas and third of the two holy mosques, from the aggressors' hands, regardless of the passage of time and the magnitude of the sacrifice required."

Commenting on the transient nature of power as demonstrated by British and Soviet decline, he says that "it is better for the United States not to help impose injustice on weak nations." He urges it to "deal with the nations and their true representatives because the nations persist and the rulers change."

EDUCATION MINISTER SAYS RELIGIOUS BOOKS NOT DESTROYED

Continuing an ongoing controversy over Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din's policy over religious textbooks that are suspected of containing extremist material, the paper publishes two brief reports. The first is on page 1 and cites remarks made by the minister to AL-SHA'B denying that 12 million books had been destroyed and saying that "the Education Ministry is not an authority that confiscates or destroys." The paper reported in its 28 October issue that Baha'-al-Din had confirmed the destruction.

The second report, on page 6, is an attributed reproduction of a recent item published by the government-owned AL-JUMNHURIYAH saying that instead of being burned, the books are auctioned off to teachers.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SAID PUNISHED FOR ALLOWING VEILED STUDENTS

Another brief 100-word school-related item on page 6 is about Fawziyah Abu-al-Futuh, a school principal in Madinat al-Nasr in Greater Cairo, who was penalized for preventing veiled female students from entering the school, in accordance with the education's minister instructions. The report says she was transferred to another governorate at first but after suffering "an acute nervous condition" and after her colleagues petitioned on her behalf, she was allowed to stay in the Cairo area but was not allowed to return to the school. The report says she is now doing a desk job.

Palestinian Affairs**'Arafat Meeting With Rabin, France's Veil Reported**

JN0811180194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and the National Authority [NA], met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin near Erez checkpoint this afternoon. President 'Arafat described the meeting as important and constructive. It was agreed, during the meeting, to resume the Palestinian-Israeli talks in the second half of this month to implement the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP], which is related to elections and the redeployment of the Israeli Army away from populated areas, in addition to other economic and political issues related to the peace process. There are more details in the following dispatch from Gaza by radio correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun:

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] The meeting between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and NA, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin near the Erez checkpoint ended a short while ago. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information. On the Israeli side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Environment Minister Yosi Sarid.

The two sides discussed many issues during the meeting, particularly the early transfer of powers to the NA in the West Bank, Palestinian elections, and the redeployment of the Israeli Army. The discussion also dealt with the latest political and security developments and the economic situation.

President 'Arafat described the meeting as important and constructive and expressed his hope that the implementation of the peace agreement will continue. President 'Arafat said the implementation of the second stage of the DOP will begin in the second half of this month.

The president noted the obstacles facing the implementation of the peace agreement, expressing the hope that these obstacles will be overcome. President 'Arafat also expressed concern for establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that an agreement was reached to increase the number of Palestinian laborers working inside Israel. Rabin said the two sides are committed to the implementation of the peace agreement, noting that after two weeks the two sides will begin talks on the second stage of the bilateral agreement.

In another development, President 'Arafat met at his office in Gaza at noon today with French Health Minister Simone Veil, who is on a visit to the Gaza Strip. During this important meeting, attended by Palestinian Health Minister Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun and Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the two leaders discussed Palestinian-French relations and economic problems in the NA areas. The two sides also discussed the issue of refugees and the health situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as women's issues.

President 'Arafat and the French minister held a joint news conference at the end of the meeting. Thanking the minister for this visit, the president said: We are pleased and proud of our relations with France on all levels. The president said that the relationship with the French government and people is strong and that it will remain so. He added: We have not forgotten the support of France—government and people—for the peace process. The president asked the minister and the accompanying delegation to convey greetings and thanks to the people and government of France.

French Minister Simone Veil expressed her happiness at visiting the NA areas and the hospitality she was accorded. The minister expressed her astonishment at the concern of the Palestinian people and the NA Health Ministry about the health issues, noting the economic problems she discussed with the president. She said that the situation in Gaza has changed since the arrival of the NA. There are obstacles, however, she noted, the most important of which are the issues of refugees and the Palestinian economy. [end recording]

'Arafat 'Infuriated' by Gaza Committee Criticisms

MM0811163794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "In Message to Central Committee in Tunis, Fatah's Gaza Branch Criticizes Palestinian Authority Practices"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Fatah's Central Committee, which met in Tunis last week under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, discussed a secret memorandum sent by the Fatah committee in Gaza expressing its views on

numerous internal Palestinian issues. The memorandum contained the committee's criticism of and observations on the practices of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The sources added that, after discussing the memorandum which annoyed and infuriated Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, the Fatah Central Committee decided to keep it secret and everyone promised not to divulge its contents. Meanwhile, it has been learned that the Central Committee will meet again on 12 December. 'Arafat requested that the meeting be held in al-'Arish, after the majority rejected his proposal to hold the meeting in Gaza.

PA's al-Agha on 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting, Orient House

NC0911114294 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0610 GMT 9 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Zakariya al-'Agha, member of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Agha, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Agha] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] The summit meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday came at an important juncture in Palestinian-Israeli relations in the wake of repeated closures of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Can we say that the summit was decisive? Or was it an ordinary meeting—one for dialogue, as Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat had told us?

[Al-Agha] I think it is one in a series of meetings that began in the past and will continue in the future. We cannot say that it was decisive in the sense that it decided all issues, but we hope that it will resolve a number of important issues that concern the Palestinians. These issues include extending the Palestinian Authority [PA] to the West Bank and holding elections, which should be prepared for by redeploying Israeli forces in the West Bank as well as deploying Palestinian forces. There are other important issues, such as the repeated closure of Gaza and the link between the West Bank and Gaza. This has happened frequently, and we hope Israel will not resort to this in the future, because such measures conflict with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and greatly harm the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, PA member: The 'Arafat-Rabin summit yesterday followed the 'Arafat-Clinton-Mubarak meeting in Cairo and the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting in Casablanca. It also came a few days before Rabin's visit to Washington and a few days before the return of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East. Amid these massive contacts in the

region, what does the Palestinian side intend to propose to boost a Palestinian-Israeli solution?

[Al-Agha] The most important thing is to implement the Declaration of Principles, signed between the PLO and Israel in the fall of 1993. The idea is to reach a full agreement on the transitional period, including Israeli redeployment, Palestinian deployment, and elections. This is what matters in all the measures being taken: Implementing the Declaration of Principles in preparation for the final-status negotiations in May 1996, during which topics concerning refugees, Jerusalem, borders, settlements, as well as other issues will be discussed. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Agha: Once again Israel is creating political problems over Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. During Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's visit to the Orient House, Palestinian and Israeli security men clashed. Are the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem political institutions linked to the PA, or are they not involved in political action?

[Al-Agha] First, we are surprised at the measures Israel took on this. Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and its future will be discussed during negotiations for a final solution. We agreed to delay discussions on Jerusalem only to facilitate things, not because Jerusalem does not concern us or as recognition on our part that the city is part of Israel or its capital, as Israel claims. It is understood and mentioned in the transitional agreement that Palestinian institutions should remain as they are, that they should not be harmed, and that they should continue their activities. The Orient House is one of these establishments that had existed and been engaged in various activities before the Declaration of Principles. What is happening now is nothing new, but a continuation of the situation that existed before the agreement. So, I am really surprised at this Israeli clamor.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you Dr. Zakariya.

[Al-Agha] You are welcome.

PA Media Official on 'Infringing' on Orient House

TA0811184894 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic* 1700 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority's [PA] media official has issued a statement saying that infringing upon Orient House means infringing upon peace and adding that it has become apparent to everyone that the Jerusalem issue is constantly imposing itself on the agenda. The statement says that Israeli circles have hoisted the banner of war over Jerusalem and that the Orient House has been the center of the offensive, despite the fact that the house was the headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating delegation before

the Oslo accord and that it was from there that the peace calls and initiatives were launched.

Commentary Warns Against Closing Orient House

*JN0811182394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1545 GMT 8 Nov 94*

[Political commentary: "Doing Harm to the Orient House Means Doing Harm to Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Day after day, everyone realizes that the issue of Jerusalem constantly imposes itself on the agenda. Although, according to the Oslo agreement, the discussion of the Jerusalem issue was postponed, the battle over it is being fought on the ground each day. The two parties facing off against each other over Jerusalem—Israel and Palestine—are each attempting to acquire points in their favor to influence the final status when the time for negotiations comes. There is one basic difference between the two strategies, however. The Palestinian attempts are legitimate, defensive, and covered by international resolutions and the position of the world community.

The Israeli attempts or measures are completely different. It is a ceaseless war of points. The Israelis scored several points in the battle, the most of importance of which were, regrettably, due to negative Arab influences that separated the religious sovereignty from the national sovereignty over the city as a whole. The Palestinian side, however, has begun to make a degree of success in scoring points. But this has aroused the anger of the Israeli Right, both inside and outside the Government, making it raise the banner of war.

Initially, the Palestinian side obstructed U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the city because the visit did not follow conditions acceptable to the Palestinians. Then came the courageous visit by the Turkish prime minister to East Jerusalem. She prayed in al-Aqsa Mosque and met with Palestinian officials at Orient House. This was followed by a visit by the French deputy prime minister to the Orient House. She also met with the same officials.

These three consecutive events point to the following facts: First, although it has officially been decided to postpone discussion of the subject in the negotiations, the Jerusalem issue in fact constitutes a world concern. Unless it is resolved in a balanced way, it may lead to the explosion of the entire regional peace process. Second, the battle over Jerusalem is not limited to the issue of the Muslim holy places in the city, but goes beyond that to the issue of the sovereignty, which is disputed by the two parties—the Palestinians and the Israelis. Third, the battle over Jerusalem is a long battle to score points. That battle must be fought with patience. What is required now is Arab assistance to win that battle, and not conflict over other issues that would allow the Israeli side to play over Arab contradictions.

The banner of war over Jerusalem has been raised. Orient House has become the target of attack despite the fact that this house is the house of peace. It was the headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating team before the Oslo Agreement. From that house, peace calls and initiatives were made, as Faysal al-Husayni has said. Therefore, it is a real house of peace in the eyes of the world, in the eyes of the Palestinian people, and in the eyes of several quarters among the Israelis. Therefore, closing the house of peace will indicate to the Palestinians and the Arabs that peace is collapsing.

Thus, the Israelis who are raising the banner of war must wait a little and view things wisely. Palestinian public opinion has hesitantly, cautiously, and skeptically agreed to postpone discussion of the Jerusalem issue in order not to torpedo the entire peace process. By agreeing to delay discussions on the Jerusalem issue, the Palestinian side has made a concession for the sake of peace, taking into account the wishes of world parties that the negotiations should start with the less complicated issues. But, if the Israelis wish to start with Jerusalem and unilaterally place it on top of the agenda by passing laws in the Knesset, then this will be a serious—a very serious—matter. The issue of Jerusalem cannot be settled by the Knesset and the entire peace process is linked to the issue of Jerusalem, even if it has been postponed. Peace starts from Jerusalem, and the explosion may start from there as well.

Security Chief Accuses Jordan of Obstruction

MM0811155894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Ali Salih in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Amman and Cairo: "Al-Rujub Accuses Jordan of Pursuing a Policy Aimed at Obstructing Palestinian Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jibril al-Rujub, chief of Palestinian Preventive [Wiq'a'i] Security in Jericho, has accused Jordan of trying to place new obstacles in the way of the movement of Palestinian policemen. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Rujub said that "there seems to be a new Jordanian policy in that direction."

Al-Rujub was commenting on the Jordanian authorities' closure of the King Husayn (Allenby) bridge to a number of Palestinian policemen who were trying to cross into Jordan last Sunday.

A Jordanian border security official, however, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he found the exaggeration of the matter in that way to be strange. He emphasized that what took place on the bridge last Sunday was a routine measure agreed upon by Jordan and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He added that "eight policemen were turned back because they did not have permits from the authorities responsible for them, but a larger number, who carried permits, were allowed to cross."

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The Jordanian security official said that "it was the PA which had officially requested that policemen not carrying permits should not be allowed to cross into Jordan. We at the security post at the King Husayn bridge are carrying out what they wanted."

In response to that, al-Rujub said that "there is no agreement between the PA and Jordan. There should be measures and arrangements facilitating the movement of the police." He added that "no policeman leaves his position without a special permit."

Al-Rujub said he hopes that "what the Jordanian security official said is true and that there is no new Jordanian policy aimed mainly at obstructing the movement of Palestinians between east and west of the river."

He added: "We do not want to hear sweet-talk. What we want to see is an actual manifestation of Jordanian-Palestinian solidarity in the pan-Arab sense through commitment to the cause of Palestine and its people and through facilitation of the movement and travel of Palestinians because that is primarily a humanitarian issue. It is unreasonable to link a trip to go on vacation or to visit relatives to the security and intelligence authorities." [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni, Olmert Present Views on Jerusalem

TA0811121794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman and David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Faysal al-Husayni, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, yesterday rejected the government's attempt to limit Palestinian political activity in the capital.

Al-Husayni vowed to continue meeting with foreign diplomats and leaders at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, al-Husayni and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert made moving appeals for their opposing views on the future of the capital, in separate appearances before Jerusalem Foundation members yesterday.

Al-Husayni demanded east Jerusalem be made the capital of a future Palestinian state. Olmert said Palestinians should not even be granted limited sovereignty, on grounds that would lead to the city's redivision.

"Jerusalem can be the warm sun of the Middle East, or, if ignored, it can be the black hole of the Middle East swallowing all the fruits of the peace process," al-Husayni said.

He added that the city was de facto divided, and that only by establishing a separate Palestinian authority in eastern Jerusalem would the city indeed become reunited.

"I believe the only solution is an open city with the buildings of both capitals," al-Husayni said. "Jerusalem

can be the capital of capitals. It can create within it the center for services for the entire Middle East," al-Husayni said.

Olmert, speaking later in the day, cautioned that "Jerusalem in the coming weeks and months will become the most explosive issue in the country." He called al-Husayni "the person who pretends to represent the Palestinians as a semi-mayor," and who supported a position that would eventually redivide Jerusalem.

Olmert said the idea of shared Palestinian and Israeli sovereignty "in real life will not work."

Israel must be flexible in negotiating control over the Moslem holy sites in the city, but remain "tough on the political issues," Olmert said.

Police Force 'Filling the Vacuum' in West Bank

TA0911113794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman and Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinians are setting up their own police force in Judaea and Samaria, a senior police officer publicly admitted for the first time yesterday.

Cmdr. Alec Ron, head of the new Judaea and Samaria Police District, said the force is "filling the vacuum" created in recent years by the resignation of the policemen who served in Palestinian communities in the areas.

He said that a full-fledged Palestinian police force had yet to be set up outside of Jericho and Gaza, but Palestinians are already acting as traffic police and intervening when clashes break out between clans.

Ron was speaking at a ceremony at the district's headquarters in Abu-Dis, just outside of Jerusalem, officially marking its start of operations.

Until now, both police and Army officers have either declined to officially comment on the establishment of Palestinian police units outside of Jericho, or denied their existence.

Ron said one of the jobs of the new district, and its hundreds of additional officers, is to get the police operating in Arab communities again after years of neglect.

He said his officers would work to limit the interference of Palestinians in police work, until the government gives approval for the establishment of a Palestinian police force outside of Jericho and Gaza. However, he added, the police would not oppose Palestinians organizing unarmed units that would help control traffic or give out parking tickets.

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Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the question of when the Palestinians would be allowed to set up their own police force outside Jericho and Gaza is now under negotiation.

He noted the peace accord calls for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to redeploy before the Palestinian elections, but it still must be determined what type of Palestinian security force will replace the Army.

"One thing is certain, there will have to be close cooperation between the two sides," Shahal said.

Once the Security Service Law is amended, the police plan to draft 1,500 new officers among IDF inductees every year for three years, said Shahal.

Army sources confirmed that such a plan exists, but said that until the law is actually amended to enable the police to do so, the Army will not begin making preparations. The sources added that, in the last two years, there are more draftees than needed. Since the IDF is experiencing manpower redundancies, they said, it has no problem accommodating other needs, such as those of the police.

Shahal said that the amendment will be submitted to the Knesset as early as next week, and once it becomes law, the police will be able to enlarge its operational manpower base.

Hamas Warns Israel of 'Anger' Over Synagogue

NC0811132694 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) warned Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to beware of popular Palestinian anger over the division of Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs into a mosque and a synagogue.

Hamas strongly condemned Tuesday [8 November] what it called Israel's attempts to "make Jewish a site that was nothing but a mosque for 1,300 years."

Israel on Monday reopened the shrine, holy to both Jews and Moslems, eight months after the massacre there of 29 Moslems by Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein. New security measures keep the two faiths totally apart.

Hamas also appealed to Arab countries and to the Organization of the Islamic Conference to take measures to protect the holy site.

"The Palestinian people cannot remain silent," Hamas said in a statement.

"The terrorist Rabin must prepare for a confrontation with our angry, heroic people...the response of our brave people and our mujahidin will be firm and painful."

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian authority has condemned the division of the Tomb.

The Hamas statement follows a plea Monday by the group's spokesman in Amman for Moslems to fight Israel's measures.

"We reject and vehemently denounce this measure and we call on all Arabs and Moslems for swift action against it," spokesman Ibrahim Gawshah said.

At the Hebron complex, Moslems have been allotted two halls for prayer, while Jews, who can no longer enter with weapons, will use three smaller halls and a covered courtyard. A metal partition divides the communities.

Hamas Spokesman on Status of Dialogue With Israel

JN0811133594 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 8-14 Nov 94 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has made the following detailed comment on news agency reports concerning the issue of dialogue between Hamas and Israel: In spite of the explicit statements by Eng. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in his own voice to Radio London and Radio Monte Carlo on what is being referred to as the dialogue between Hamas and the Zionist entity, some news agencies have disseminated distorted reports, which compels us to restate our stand on this issue:

First, the official stand of Hamas on the self-rule elections is to reject them and not to participate in them, given that they are an indivisible part of the Oslo and Cairo agreement which gave the Zionist occupation the final say.

Second, the official Hamas stand regarding political dialogue with the Zionist entity is to definitely reject it given that the Zionist entity has usurped the land of Palestine, and is daily dispersing and killing the Palestinian people.

Third, the Hamas Movement has voiced readiness to hold a dialogue on humanitarian issues through a third party such as the Red Cross, as was the case with the Zionist soldier Wachsmann in October 1994, when it offered to exchange him with Palestinian detainees led by their head Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the women detainees in Zionist jails. The [Izz al-Din] al-Qassam Battalions extended the ultimatum by 24 hours but Rabin chose the course he always prefers, that of violence, terrorism, and might. The results are known to all.

The Hamas Movement submitted an initiative in April 1994 to exclude civilians from the conflict between the Palestinian mujahidin and the Zionist forces of occupation and to keep them out of the military operations on condition Rabin issues explicit orders to stop attacking, killing, or wounding Palestinian civilians and to stop the demolition of houses by the occupation army, settlers, and those working under cover as Arabs. In exchange for

this, the al-Qassam Battalions would restrict its operations to military targets and Zionist armed elements only. However, Rabin has not commented, as yet, on this proposal and pursued his attacks against the Palestinian civilians.

Fourth, we hope that the above clarification will be taken into account by all the political and media quarters as this represents the movement's official stand on dialogue with the Zionist entity.

Hamas: Jews Must 'Return To Where They Came From'

TA0811142394 Ankara Show Television in Turkish
2045 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Statement by Hamas leader Mahmud al-Zahhar to correspondent Mithat Bereket in Gaza; place and date not given; from the "32d Day" program—recorded, in English fading into Turkish translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] The aim is to establish an Islamic order in opposition to corruption in society. Furthermore, we believe that Israel has no historical or religious rights to this land. We believe that we will defeat Israel with the power of Islam. The Jews will have to return to where they came from. In the end, we will establish Islamic rule in our society.

The 'Arafat administration does not meet the demands of the people. He reached an agreement with Israel, but this only serves Israel's interests. We are, therefore, opposed to it. Under these conditions, as a result of the activities of all the other branches of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], I can tell you that more than 50 percent of the Palestinians support Hamas.

Report Says Fatah Ramallah Elections Praised

JN0811204094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1445 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Political commentary: "Fatah Movement in Ramallah Opens the Way to Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ongoing war; the almost permanent siege imposed on the Palestinian people in the homeland; and the restrictions, pressure, and oppressive measures brought to bear on the Palestinian national movement in the diaspora has produced—at the beginning of the movement from revolution to statehood—a serious phenomenon. This phenomenon is the social upheaval that has replaced qualified people with people lacking the ability to confront and solve the numerous problems. This phenomenon has enabled bureaucrats to occupy the vital vacancies in the new authority and the institutions charged with healing the wounds of the people and the creation of the first elements of the future state. It has also led to the continuation of the fractional quota system within the framework of the authority and the divisive party loyalty

systems within organizations. These serious manifestations have resulted in a vacuum that has been filled with the negative legacy of the previous stage. This, in turn, will renew the crisis during the independence stage and will curb the real building process.

The past and the present have experienced similar phenomena. Those who fought bravely and showed a heroic steadfastness in Beirut were forced to depart ravaged with wounds. They then withdrew to the wings of the stage, moved from the battlefield to the desert camps. Those who did not fight remained in center stage, carrying their rifles, but leaving the siege for luxurious hotels and resthouses. This drama has been repeated in the peace stage. Those who sacrificed everything were forced to leave their forward positions to rest for a while and to search for a homeland for their people. These forward positions were occupied by those who did not resist and who did not offer any sacrifices to take up these positions.

Contrary to what has been rumored, the results of the Fatah Movement's conference in Ramallah have restored the values of the nation's era of steadfastness and point to the following:

1. Fatah understands the dangers of social instability and has taken the initiative to overcome them through militant examples, taking into account in word and deed the national interests and the previous tests and militant experience.

2. The electoral results have shown that Fatah's cadres and foundation are in good shape, because these cadres were able to interpret the mood of the people and to translate this into elections by asserting anew their readiness to correct the militant march.

3. The results of the elections prove that the democratic way, represented by collective dialogue and elections, is the only way to carry out difficult national and popular missions with harmony and with the dexterity to overcome all faults. Therefore, we can say that the era of appointments has given way to the era of elections. This is what the Fatah leadership blesses and supports as the proper way.

4. If the experience is repeated on the same level in other areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and if the national and Islamic forces follow suit, then this will define the features of the next stage of legislative, municipal, village council, and popular union elections. The first step has begun amid obvious popular satisfaction. Will there be other steps?

'Younger Generation' Takes Over Fatah Council

TA0711120494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Lamia Lahoud]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the first internal Fatah elections, the younger generation of ex-prisoners took control of the executive council in Ramallah on Friday [4 November].

Most of those elected to the 15-member council are in their early 30s who belong to the fighting forces of Fatah, which operated underground until the autonomy agreement was signed, said Marwan al-Barghuthi, the general secretary of Fatah in the territories.

"The new leaders do not belong to the political wing, they were fighters who operated underground, and most served long prison terms in Israeli jails," he said. Al-Barghuthi was one of the organizers of the elections, but did not run.

Qadurah al-Faris, an ex-prisoner who spent 14 years in jail for Fatah activities, won first place on the council list. Two months ago, al-Faris was released from jail, where he headed a prisoners action committee. His committee was negotiating with the Prisons Service on behalf of all Palestinian prisoners, explained al-Barghuthi.

Also on the council are 'Abd-al-Fattah Hamayil, who spent 17 years in jail, and 'Abd-al-Hadi Zawawi, who was wanted by the security forces during the intifada, said al-Barghuthi.

There is also one Christian on the council, Muhib 'Awwad, 33, from a village outside Ramallah. According to al-Barghuthi, 'Awwad was very active during the intifada. The only woman on the council is Rabiha Dhiyab, who was elected to the No. 10 spot on the list. Dhiyab is a member of the high committee of Fatah in the territories and heads the Fatah women's committee, said al-Barghuthi.

A former Fatah leader from Ramallah said the elections proved that Fatah wants to separate itself from the Palestinian Authority and exist as an independent movement, which would support the peace process and Yasir 'Arafat, but would refuse to be integrated in the authority.

He said most of the Fatah leaders who had been appointed by 'Arafat were not elected. The exceptions were Dr. Samir Shihadah, a Bi'r Zayt University professor whose son was arrested for killing a settler in Ramallah, and Tawfiq al-Barghuthi, the first leader of the Fatah youths in Gaza and the territories.

The ex-leader said he thought 'Arafat was not too pleased with the results, but al-Barghuthi denied this saying that 'Arafat called him and congratulated him for the elections and the results.

Another Fatah activist from Ramallah said many of the new leaders were intifada activists from refugee camps and villages, who had been dissatisfied with the way the PLO-appointed Fatah leaders had been running affairs in Ramallah. He said they had criticized the former

leadership for not paying enough attention to the people's needs. He said it was significant that only three council members are from the three towns in the Ramallah district: Ramallah, Al-Birah, and Baytuniya. All the others are from villages and refugee camps.

Rights Figure Cited on Conditions in Gaza

TA0411181394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 pp 16, 17

[Article by No'omi Levitzky: "Yasir 'Arafat Is Your Hostage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sounds of celebration dissipated over the weekend, the Casablanca emigres returned home exhausted but pleased, the peace festivities with Jordan left behind a long trail of colorful balloons and national yearning for the pleasant king, but reality put the problem of all problems back in the headlines: the bomb ticking in the Gaza Strip.

The level of tension at the Erez checkpoint had already risen on Tuesday [1 November]. Warnings about a spectacular mass terror attack by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] could be heard on the radio. The officers in charge feared rioting by workers unable to leave for work in Israel. The first alleviation of the closure was slated for that morning. It had been announced that 4,000 laborers from the Gaza Strip would be issued permits to leave for Israel. The laborers showed up but were promptly turned away. The orders at the checkpoint were clear: The closure continues.

A climate of depression prevails in Gaza these days. The big hope that existed upon 'Arafat's arrival has turned into major disappointment. "The economic situation here is simply awful," says Dr. Iyad al-Sarraj, director of mental health services in the Gaza Strip. "People have hit rock bottom, the lowest point of the human struggle for survival. They do not think about politics; all they care about is bread for their children. They are humiliated and anxious about the future, and they do not feel even a trace of hope."

The day 'Arafat arrived in Gaza Dr. al-Sarraj addressed an open letter to him in AL-QUDS. "We Palestinians have to date had a stormy romance with you. Now begins the marriage, and, by the nature of things, marriage kills romance. The honeymoon will soon be over, and you, 'Arafat, will have to start working hard. You must develop a real relationship with us and build a true partnership with us. That will be your test," al-Sarraj wrote.

Dr. al-Sarraj is a handsome, impeccably dressed, very intelligent, and Western-educated man. He is close to Hanan 'Ashrawi, was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, and is currently a senior member of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights.

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Al-Sarraj was born 50 years ago in Beersheba. His father, who worked for the British Army as a civilian, fled to the Gaza Strip with his family upon the outbreak of the war for independence. He graduated from Alexandria University's medical school, and after specializing in pediatrics at al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza he spent the next four years in London specializing in psychiatry.

He says that until he returned to Gaza in 1977 he hated, rather, really hated Israelis. However, then he discovered that there is another type of Israeli. Slowly he began forging ties with peace-seeking Israelis and thinking in terms of peace between the two peoples—peace between neighbors, based on mutual respect.

"What we have today is not peace," he says, "not even a grain of peace. The feeling in Gaza is: Good, now we have 'Arafat, but actually our life is still being decided by Rabin. The Palestinians are losing the momentary sense of independence they felt when the agreement was signed and the Israeli army left.

"I am afraid that in the end it will turn into a religious war between us. It will no longer be a political war about rights, but a war of religions, which is the worst that could happen.

"The agreement and its aftermath instill a deep sense of defeat in us. There is a feeling of helplessness, which leads to depression, which engenders violence and terror. As the closure continues and people find it more difficult to bring home food, the picture we get at the Mental Health Center is one of rising violence, initially within the family and later outside it."

A 12-year-old boy who set himself on fire was admitted to the Mental Health Center a few days ago. He told the doctors that he did it because his father could not buy him a pair of trousers. The doctors summoned the father for a talk. The father, with tears in his eyes, told them: "What can I do? I have no work."

"That is how violence starts and how more terror is born," Dr. al-Sarraj says.

[Levitzky] Do you feel that support for Hamas is growing?

[Al-Sarraj] Nobody here enjoys any support now. There is distrust for everybody in Gaza today. Perhaps only the second or third level of Fatah, the men who conducted the intifadah, are still trusted, but not those who were then in offices in Tunis. I must tell you, however, that I never saw as much opposition to Hamas here as after the massacre in Tel Aviv. Most people here were totally upset by it.

Even those who hate Israel said it was bad and harmful, that it will not help us. Will it liberate Palestine? Will it give us a state? On the other hand, you must understand that the spirit of Hamas cannot be uprooted by force. However many Hamas men you or we kill, even if we kill them all, masses of new ones will take their place. That is

what happens in a psychology of defeat. The only solution is a long-term one. When the situation here improves and people have work they will not join Hamas. [end al-Sarraj]

Amidst the deep frustration, criticism of 'Arafat is growing in Gaza. Only a few express it publicly, but many complain in the privacy of homes, restaurants, and cafes. Speaking informally, they say that 'Arafat cannot change the situation, that the autonomy government is losing ground.

A story here goes that 'Arafat signed a telecommunications agreement with MCI and that on the very same day Faruq Qaddumi signed a similar deal with AT&T. This is how things are being run here. There is a building boom in Gaza. Most of the cement is purchased from an Israeli company. Some 30 percent of the money the contractors pay goes to Yasir 'Arafat, for the PLO preservation fund. This is no way to build a state, they say in Gaza.

'Arafat's brother Fathi also causes anger here. He is in charge of the Gaza Strip health services. They say that he received a donation of \$750,000, but when asked where the money went, he only fumed and refused to answer.

Dr. al-Sarraj is one of the few who openly criticize 'Arafat. I asked him whether he believes that 'Arafat can improve the situation in Gaza. "No," he said. "Unfortunately, I do not believe in him or his abilities. Our only hope is that Fatah becomes a democratic organization, that elections are held, and that people become more involved in what is going on. As long as he alone holds the reigns, we will have a problem on our hands.

"'Arafat's men tell me: Wait a while; give us a chance; this is only the beginning. I say: Fine, I will wait; I am willing to wait even for years. The problem is that I do not even see the initial signs that something is changing. At the same time, I see 'Arafat's military power and nothing else. He does not delegate authorities; he does not build a leadership.

"The main Palestinian problem is that individuals and groups do not take part in decisionmaking. We have never had any elections. All that we have is 'Arafat appointees: the mufti, al-Nashashibi, Nabil Sha'th, all appointees. The problem is that we have never identified with the government. We always worked against it because it was always foreign. A leader should be wise and sensitive to make people who suffer the syndrome of a nation under constant occupation become involved.

"And yet, no one wants elections—not my leaders, not the Israelis nor the Americans. 'Arafat wants to remain the sole ruler, Rabin wants security for Israel, and Clinton wants a quiet Middle East, with or without elections. It does not matter to them. Even the residents could care less for democracy at this time. They want bread and jobs. Israel and the Americans will give 'Arafat money and a strong police force, believing they

are putting things straight, but this is not so. In the end, it will come back at Israel with a vengeance."

Al-Sarraj speaks with pain. He fears that the supplies of hope are running out, that support for 'Arafat is decreasing, and that there is no cure. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is toying with the idea of setting up a new party that would be the balance, but there are no elections in sight. In the meantime, we lack the professionals to run the self-government, and Gaza remains just as it was under Israeli rule.

"Israel should have known that we lack the skill, that this could never work. Now there is total chaos. Some 7,000 Palestinians used to work for the Civil Administration. For 27 years they were taught to obey orders, not to think. Now they are supposed to run things.

"There is a group of people here who came from Tunis, and they do not know how to run a civilian firm. The best of them know how to shoot a gun. This is why the agreement is bad. They should have left an international group of professionals for an overlap period until we learn how to run things.

"Look at what is happening. The donor countries give 'Arafat no money because he cannot provide them with infrastructure plans. The Israelis knew it would be like that. I ask myself: How could the Israelis sign such an agreement? Are they stupid or just vicious? My answer is that they are neither. Perhaps the intentions of those who concluded the details of the agreement with us were not honest. Perhaps the supreme army command does not want peace with us."

Al-Sarraj does not state this explicitly, but he is referring to Chief of Staff Ehud Barak. The chief of staff was fully involved in all the steps leading to the agreement between Jordan and Israel. He appeared at numerous public meetings with King Husayn and acted like best man at the signing ceremony. The Palestinians, on the other hand, have not had the pleasure of meeting him even once. They view this as signifying his aversion to making peace with them.

"The Israelis have to start thinking a bit more seriously about peace. You do not have to be a genius or even smart to wage war. Anyone can start a war, but one has to be both intelligent and credible to forge a lasting peace.

"You did not make peace with us; it was all just words. The Israeli Government should understand that if it truly seeks a durable peace in this region we should be helped and encouraged. Instead of that, 'Arafat is humiliated even more.

"What is actually happening is that you Israelis are continuing to oppress us. 'Arafat is your hostage in Gaza. He is humiliated. I do not like his behavior. I was ashamed by the way he acted in Cairo during the signing ceremony, when he dithered about whether or not to sign the agreement. Afterwards, I was displeased by his

attempts to smuggle people into Gaza inside his car. That is not the way a leader behaves. These are the acts of a thug.

"On the other hand, at the moment our choice here in Gaza is between 'Arafat and Hamas. It is a bad choice, but that is all we have for now. You are making a big mistake by diminishing his stature even more.

"'Arafat's big weakness is money. He views money as the essence and source of his power. When he runs out of money, he becomes vulnerable and exposed. Our leader is constantly begging for money everywhere on our behalf. Even rich Palestinians will not invest here under the present conditions. This means that no one, neither Palestinian nor Israeli, is capable of predicting what will happen in Gaza in other five years.

"An entire nation lives here in total insecurity without any confidence in its future. You Israelis should take that into account because this feeling of no future is a sure recipe for disaster."

Al-Sarraj claims that Israel is suffering from the victim syndrome. Jewish history and a fear of the entire world have instilled in Israelis a need to constantly demonstrate their power and ignore the suffering of others. "During the first year of the intifadah, the Israelis suddenly realized that we were also a victim," al-Sarraj explains, "but after Palestinian terrorists started using firearms, the victim's psychology reaffirmed itself."

According to him, the Palestinians suffer from the same syndrome. "The Palestinians need to see some empathy for their pain and suffering. Instead they hear Israelis state publicly that they do not care what happens in Gaza. They just want the Palestinians to get lost, to get out of their hair.

"After the massacre in Tel Aviv, even Rabin said he wanted to separate the two peoples," al-Sarraj says. "As a Palestinian patriot I should have been pleased by this statement. Perhaps these are the seeds of the Palestinian state. As a realist, however, I know that you and we will continue to live together in this region even after a Palestinian state is established. Otherwise, there will be a ghetto called Israel, a ghetto in Gaza, and a ghetto called Nabulus.

"Both our peoples must learn to live together. Both sides must make a supreme effort. Those Israelis who say they do not care what happens to the Palestinians in Gaza and that the Palestinians can kill each other as long as they leave the Israelis alone are the ones who will turn even my child into a terrorist."

Daily Says Israeli 'Actions' Jeopardize Peace

TA0711144494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES
in English 4 Nov 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Gap Between Politics and Reality"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] This week's three-day Casablanca conference heralded the economic and political transformation of the Middle East after the spate of peace treaties and agreements signed over the past year.

The participants were keen to initiate economic projects to benefit the people of the region, knowing that otherwise all the political agreements will remain merely ink on paper. The conferees radiated optimism about the huge economic possibilities in the context of the peace process in the Middle East.

But the real test, now that the hundreds of participants have returned home, will be the practical application of these grandiose ideals. The parties must follow up by executing all the political articles of the agreements on the ground and implement all the widely reported economic and commercial slogans that came out of the conference.

Meanwhile, Israel has jumped the gun. Rabin and company are already seeking to reap the benefits in the region without implementing the agreements signed with the Palestinians, continuing their occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the remaining land in the Gaza Strip. Israel has climbed over the backs of Palestinians to reach the rest of the Middle East.

The Palestinians must not be the sole party to pay such a heavy price for this peace. In Casablanca, Israel spoke of a new Benelux in the Middle East, while back home, they tightened the 20-month siege on the occupied territories. The gradual and extremely limited lifting of the siege only emphasizes Israeli reticence to really deal with the Palestinian issue.

Israeli delay in the transfer of the civic powers to the Palestinian National Authority in the rest of the occupied territories confirms the doubts that Palestinians will be able to noticeably improve their economic situation.

And then, there is Jerusalem. This city acutely needs a final political settlement. Israel, however, is determined to reject any endeavors to solve the issue according to the Oslo Agreement. They are working incessantly to alter the status of the city, trying to Judaize it in every way possible, in violation of the spirit of the Oslo Agreement.

It seems that every week more changes are initiated in Jerusalem. The most recent was the Israeli refusal to renew the permit for the Augusta Victoria Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem. The hospital was established 50 years ago, before the creation of the Israeli state, and offers medical services to thousands of Palestinian refugees from the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Jerusalem is totally isolated from the rest of the occupied territories, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque has been desecrated. Only three days ago, members of the Interior Committee of the Israeli Knesset provocatively entered the Al-Aqsa compound without any coordination with the Islamic Waqf responsible for the Islamic holy shrines. Israel is determined to prove that it still controls the holy places of Jerusalem.

These belligerent actions will not help the creation of a new economic reality and will not lead to a just and comprehensive peace in the region. On the contrary, they will only jeopardize the future of the entire peace process.

Algeria

Sifi Calls For Decentralized Administration

LD0811222894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1234 GMT 8 Nov 94

["Full Text" of address by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi at a civil service seminar at the Aurasi Hotel in Algiers on 8 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God the compassionate and most merciful, and God's peace and prayers be upon the most noble of his messengers.

Messieurs the ministers, respectable guests, ladies and gentlemen, peace and God's blessings be upon you.

Before anything, I remind you of the call addressed by the Algerian Islamic Boy Scouts to the Algerian people to observe a minute of silence and ask God to have mercy on the souls of the martyred buds who fell victims to perfidy and savagery at Sidi Ali martyrs graveyard in Mostaganem, and on all the victims affected by the blind terrorism in our society, among the most recent of these victims we find the two young girls, Zoulikha and Saida, to whom the hand of perfidy and treason was extended yesterday in Sidi M'hamed in Bir Touta while innocence had not yet abandoned them.

In these circumstances, I would like to salute the courage, steadfastness and patience of the victims' families. This is conclusive evidence of their stand against the enemies of the homeland, within and without, a stand which is similar in that respect to the stance of the rest of Algerian people.

The highest authorities in the country will spare no effort to work towards punishing the savage criminals through the protective armor formed by our valiant national army and the security forces which are facing all the nation's enemies inside and outside.

I call on the audience to observe a minute of silence and ask God to have mercy on the souls of all our victims.

God is Great, may God have mercy on the souls of our martyrs. [passage omitted]

We are all aware that the study days on the civil service constitute a useful opportunity which would enable the government, trade union, collective movement, and all the members of the civil service, first of all, to discuss amongst ourselves the most important issues and concerns pertaining to the future of administration in our country; secondly, to examine the present form of administrative organization and means of serving the society, and to highlight the limitations, shortcomings and repercussions of this form; thirdly and lastly, to propose endeavors, operations, and measures which could help in the preparation of a realistic and practical

policy to upgrade, innovate, and promote our administration to the level of an effective administration that occupies an important place in serving a modern, open, and just society.

Ladies and gentlemen, the initiative of the civil service general directorate to organize these study days comes at a suitable time which is characterized by a difficult surrounding in which we find that the country has embarked with all determination on a large-scale operation for strengthening and rehabilitating the state of law, a state which is modern and strong in its institutions and imposes respect and dignity, capable of stimulating and organizing life in the society and that makes it incumbent on everyone to respect the principles and rules on which this society is administered.

My presence in these study days in my capacity as a prime minister is indicative of the extreme importance paid by the authorities of the country, in the forefront of which is the head of state, for the need to promote an important administration served by serious, worthy, and competent cadres and professionals. The matter actually concerns the need to emphasize here the realization and desire of these authorities to enable our country to be in possession, at the earliest moment, of this necessary tool which is innovative in its outlook, modern and effective in its intervention, and flexible and cheap in its management and maintenance for arriving at an accommodation with the great transformations carried out by Algeria at present.

The emergence of a strong administration which is in possession of good training in the service of a modern state in which law and justice prevail forms a principal need imposed by these transformations and changes which aim in an organized and coordinated manner at dismantling and completely eliminating the political, economical, and cultural monopolies. This would allow our society to flourish, to express itself within a democratic framework, to combat all forms of intolerance and exclusion, and to possess a modern, strong state the principles of which are based on values which give a prominent position for respecting others, the right to differ, and satisfactory life.

Therefore, there is no need to stress that the civil service and the administration in general are required to make a thorough reassessment expeditiously in their approach, working plans, and perception, and adaptation of their cadres and employees to face the many challenges which they have necessarily to undertake and overcome at all the fronts open through the democratic nature of our political system and our move to a market economy, and to abandon centralized administrative management.

Algeria has depended and will always depend on its competent cadres to take the transformations and changes taking place in it to safe grounds, and to realize all the country's aspirations in general, particularly since it is witnessing a difficult period which requires, more

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than ever before, all its vital forces and resources to be brought together and mobilized. [passage omitted]

The service directorate general must never be seen as a censorship body. On the contrary, it must become a body for developing and shaping human resources, and for modernizing central and local administrative bodies in the country. [passage omitted]

'Critical Period' Past in Dialogue With FIS

MM0811122594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: Contacts Between Authorities and Salvation Front Resume"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Cheikh Rabeh Kebir, head of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Committee, has cited the "astonishment" of Front leaders Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj at the contradictions in the policy pursued by President Liamine Zeroual's regime. He told AL-HAYAH that they had received a delegation from the authorities in their house arrest residence in Djenan El Mufti in the capital a few days ago. It has been learned that the delegation included General Mohamed Bachin (adviser holding the rank of minister in the presidency) and Gen. Taib Dradji.

Although Cheikh Kebir declined to say openly that the "dialogue" has resumed between the authorities and the FIS, it is clear that the "critical period" that followed President Liamine Zeroual's speech on the occasion of 1 November has ended. Because the authorities have allowed Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj to receive telephone calls and visitors after banning them from doing so following Zeroual's speech, in which he announced the failure of the national dialogue and blamed the FIS for that failure.

However, the authorities do not seem to be in the process of backtracking on their tough measures at all levels. They are continuing their large-scale military operations against the armed Islamic groups. They are also continuing the policy of imposing restrictions on media services by announcing that they are going to take legal action against any newspapers that open their pages to "terrorists." In this context the Interior Ministry has announced the suspension of the newspapers AL-UMMAH and AL-WAJH AL-AKHAR for a month. And they have once again started to exploit contradictions inside the Algerian parties opposed to their positions. The decision of a group from the party of former President Ahmed Ben Bella to split from the [party's] leadership and support the authorities' policy falls within this context.

Cheikh Kebir told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that Cheikhs Madani and Belhadj are "astonished by the authorities' policy. On the one hand they appear to be pursuing a dialogue policy, but on the other they are continuing the repression policy." He added that the two

cheikhs do not know what the authorities' real policy is. He added that the authorities had banned visits to the two cheikhs and cut off telephone lines immediately after Gen. Zeroual's speech, so they had staged a [hunger] strike for two days. "With God's help they were allowed to receive visitors two days ago, and their telephone is now operational." He stressed that the FIS has "a clear strategy represented in endeavoring—through available means—to rehabilitate the Algerian people so that they can make their own decisions without any tutelage. And once conditions for a just, legitimate solution are available, we will not hesitate to participate in it." He went on: "The Front is sparing no efforts to find a solution to the crisis. But it will not accept any solution at the expense of the people's dignity and sovereignty."

He vehemently criticized President Zeroual's speech on the anniversary of the revolution against French colonialism. He said that the head of state had "yielded to the pressures of the putschists who are the main cause of Algeria's problem. The people had expected him to announce pacifying measures to restore hopes of an imminent solution." He said that the failure of Zeroual's endeavors "was planned by the eradicationists in power." And that the president "justified his failure by blaming the FIS leadership for some of the authorities' mistakes, using some of Cheikh Ali Belhadj's messages to some mujahidin leaders as evidence" against the Front.

He noted that Zeroual had mentioned Belhadj's messages and "ignored the instructions issued by the chief of staff (Gen. Mohamed Lamari) to Army commanders" immediately after the two cheikhs were put under house arrest, "to step up the repression." He noted that Zeroual "also ignored Cheikh Belhadj's fourth and last message to the mujahidin, in which he offered some advice to the mujahidin, proving by religious evidence that the prophet, peace be upon him, negotiated in times of strength just as he negotiated in times of weakness."

On Zeroual's call for a presidential election before 1995, Kebir said that "it is an isolationist decision reflecting the policy of escaping forward. It also reflects the regime's desire to cling to power at the expense of the people's interests." He pointed out that the situation is now worse than ever, since people now wake up to see scores of bodies scattered on the streets with a view to intimidating and terrorizing people."

At the level of the internal situation in Algeria, it has been noted that the Islamic Ennahda movement led by Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah has broken the silence it has maintained since Zeroual announced the failure of the dialogue. Mustafa Bougrah, official of the political committee in the movement, said in a statement of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy: "The head of state's speech to the nation came in difficult circumstances characterized by a political deadlock, economic collapse, and social pressure. It had been hoped that the speech

would restore hope for a better future, but what happened was completely the opposite, since it was unilaterally announced that the national dialogue had failed and a presidential election would be held before the end of 1995—which in these circumstances in particular is an evasion of responsibility. Nevertheless, the Islamic Ennahda movement has always believed that dialogue is the ideal way to resolve Algeria's crisis and that concessions retreat [al-insihabat] can be a legitimate means of and a main factor in restoring security and stability once conditions for success are available—such as the release of political prisoners, the rehabilitation of the FIS, a more rapid return to normal political and informational life, and the involvement of the parties in discussing the laws regulating these elections." [passage omitted]

Security Services Announce 'Terrorists' Deaths

LD0811185894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The security services have announced that three terrorists were killed by the security forces on Sunday [6 November] and yesterday in three provinces. The killer of singer Chab Hasni and of professor Fardheb, the economy professor at Oran University, was killed last Saturday [5 November] in Oran by the forces of security. The security services also announced that the bomb attacker of the Sidi Ali cemetery, near Mostaganem on 1 November, was killed on 2 November, that is the day after. His name is Douara Cherif. He is aged 50 and was employed by Enapal. This man was an activist of the former FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and lived in Ain Tadles, 15 km from Sidi Ali. The same services also announced the elimination of the leader of the group operating in Texanna, near Jijel, and his two accomplices.

Father, Brother of Slain Girls Freed

LD0811173294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have succeeded in freeing the father and brother of the two girls who were savagely killed yesterday in Bir Touta for rejecting a temporary marriage.

A security services' statement said elements of the security forces moved this morning after receiving information from a citizen. The operation, which took place in the (Ouled Chebal) area in Blida province, resulted in freeing the father, 65 years old, and the child Mohamed, and killed two terrorists who were detaining them. The search continues for the mother.

Egypt

Liaison Office, Consulate To Open in Gaza, Jericho

NC0911113694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources at the Foreign Ministry have stated that an Egyptian committee will visit the

Palestinian self-rule areas in the next few days to discuss with the Palestinian Authority [PA] measures to open an Egyptian liaison office in Gaza and a consulate in Jericho.

[In a related "News Analysis" by Ayman al-'Awadi broadcast at 1005 on 9 November, the radio says: "Egypt's recent decision to establish a liaison office in Gaza and a consulate in Jericho represent the first diplomatic relations between Egypt and Palestine. The plan supports cooperation and coordination between Egypt and the PA in political, economic, and cultural fields." The news analysis adds: "In another development, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation at the PA, is scheduled to hold talks in Cairo on new arrangements and measures to facilitate the entry of Palestinians into the self-rule areas through Cairo and the Rafah crossing. Official sources have stressed that Egypt will provide all facilities to the Palestinians in keeping with the strong relations between the two sides and the spirit of understanding that dominates these relations."]

Scientific Research Minister Returns From Israel

NC0911120494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2153 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Minister of Scientific Research Dr. Venice Kamil returned to Cairo from Israel this evening after a two-day visit.

She said upon arrival that she visited several research centers in Israel and held talks on the role of scientific research in achieving well-being for the region.

She added that her talks in Israel dealt with several topics, including environmental, water, and air pollution, new and renewable energy, computer technology, and manufacturing [words indistinct].

Russian Minister Arrives for Talks on Cooperation

NC0911064994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days to Egypt heading a technical delegation made up of several [words indistinct].

Davydov is scheduled to meet Minister of Electricity and Energy Engineer Mahir Abazah to discuss future cooperation between the two countries in (electricity and energy).

UAE President Leaves After Talks With Mubarak

NC0311123194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al

Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held talks at the al-Qubba Presidential Palace this afternoon. They discussed Arab developments and bilateral relations and ways to support them in every field.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1200 GMT on 3 November reports that the UAE president left Cairo this afternoon.]

UN Urged To Lift Bosnia-Herzegovina Arms Embargo

NC0911120594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, has said that Egypt is ready to offer additional troops to reinforce the international forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a statement to the Security Council during a discussion of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. al-'Arabi said that excluding the Bosnian Government from the arms embargo would serve the negotiations. He warned that, if the Security Council fails to make a decision on Bosnia, the countries concerned would provide that country with arms pursuant to Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Security Council is expected to vote later today on a draft resolution to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia.

Arms, Documents Found in 'Terrorist' Hideouts

NC0811192194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution has ordered an autopsy on the body of terrorist Hasan Salih Hasan Mahmud, who was killed in an exchange of fire with the policemen who tried to arrest him, to determine the cause of death and issue a permit to bury the body.

The prosecution officials searched the terrorists' hideouts in Cairo, al-Jizah, Alexandria, and al-Buhayrah and found in them large quantities of bombs, explosives, material used in making explosive charges, various types of weapons and ammunition, and documents confirming that they were involved in terrorist activities.

The prosecution also checked the hideout of terrorist Hasan Salih in al-Muqattam and confiscated the shells found at the scene of the incident and the weapon used by the terrorist.

The prosecution decided to send the criminology laboratory officials to inspect the site of the incident and the seized weapons and to prepare a report for the prosecution.

Suspected Militants Fire at Nile Cruise Boat

NC0711162194 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 7 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic militants opened fire on a cruise boat

on the River Nile overnight without causing casualties, the Presidential cruise company in Luxor said Monday [7 November].

Gunmen fired at the Nile Plaza boat from the river bank in the Qus region of southern Egypt, company officials said.

The passengers, whose nationalities were not given, were unhurt but the boat was berthed at Luxor for repairs.

The attack was the first against river boats for several months. A total of 484 people including 11 tourists have been killed since Islamic militants launched a violent campaign to topple Egypt's secularist government in March 1992.

Mubarak on Floods, Security, Other Issues

NC0811210094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—At his meeting with members of the National Democratic Party [NDP] Parliamentary Committee this evening, President Husni Mubarak affirmed that the government's compensation will cover all those affected by floods in Upper Egypt.

He urged the deputies to help in assessing the losses so that they may be accurate, realistic, and unexaggerated. He also urged people not to be apathetic and asked all parties and trends to face this crisis and rise to the occasion. [passage omitted]

The president praised the government's role and the Arab and friendly foreign countries that rushed to send aircraft loaded with relief aid. He said the handling of this crisis will cost huge amounts of money but affirmed that Egypt will overcome the crisis. He noted that, according to preliminary reports, by yesterday evening 3,000 houses had been destroyed in Qina Governorate, 10,500 houses in Suhaj, and 2,790 in Asyut.

Touching on foreign policy, President Mubarak discussed the current inter-Arab relations, especially after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He also discussed the outcome of the Casablanca conference and Egypt's role in it. He noted Egypt's stance on turning the Middle East into an area free of mass-destruction weapons.

Following the president's meeting with members of the NDP Parliamentary Committee, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak expressed his hope for a successful and distinguished parliamentary session for the good of the people.

The president noted the efforts required during this session, as it will be the last parliamentary session. He said: We expect to achieve many things and hold serious debates to pass many legislations in the public's interest, which we all aspire to do. [passage omitted]

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Commenting on the floods, the president said that there is no reason to hide the facts because it was a natural disaster that the government and the people had nothing to do with. He added that there is no need for exaggeration or agitation by some newspapers and noted that all local and central agencies and officials exerted all efforts and bore full responsibility. [passage omitted]

The president affirmed that compensation will reach all affected people in all governorates equally. Referring to fraternal and friendly countries' assistance, the president said 10 aircraft arrived from Saudi Arabia, four aircraft from Kuwait, two from Algeria, one from the United States, one from Turkey, and one from Greece. [passage omitted]

The president said: I will visit the affected governorates soon after normalcy has been restored, villages have been rebuilt, and citizens have returned to their homes and been compensated for their property and crops. He added: The cost will be high but this is our responsibility to our people. He noted the need for the counted losses in houses and crops to be accurate so that all the affected people can be compensated. [passage omitted]

The president also explained the facts about the security situation and the security agencies' ability to chase and seize the criminals. He saluted and (?appreciated) the police for their role in preserving the country's security and stability.

He praised the Egyptian people's stance, saying that the people's spirit and cooperation have been the primary and decisive factor in confronting all attempts to compromise Egypt's stability. President Mubarak said: I have no fear and do not hesitate when it comes to Egypt because my whole life is dedicated to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Touching on foreign policy and the regional peace process, President Mubarak noted that there are indications of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. He affirmed that progress along the Palestinian track is a pressing necessity to enable the Palestinians to obtain their rights and avoid further complications of the situation. He reiterated that progress in negotiations means the achievement of stability in all aspects and for all the parties.

The president said: We do not want the Palestinian position to change, turning into a time bomb. Rapid action is necessary and the time factor is very important to defuse such a bomb.

Touching on the Damascus Declaration, President Mubarak pointed out that the signatories represent a group brought together by the conditions and hazards of the Gulf war. These states shared the same stance and upheld clear principles, he said, adding: It is not acceptable to add new parties to the declaration or abandon the principles that brought the signatories together in the first place.

The president spoke about international relations, the Middle East common market, and the regional economic groups. He pointed out that no state can live in isolation from other world states. He explained that interests are interrelated. He also talked about the peace process, international relations, U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent visit to a number of Middle East states, current transformations in the region, regional economic cooperation, and the controversies about the Middle Eastern common market. He emphasized the importance of inter-Arab cooperation in the framework of an economic [word indistinct] vision. He noted that the idea of an Arab common market had been considered before the European common market.

Mubarak said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait hampered the establishment of an Arab political and economic coordination at the time. [passage omitted]

The president explained the Iraqi role in its attempts to control the region, noting that these attempts took shape in Egypt's absence after the Baghdad summit. He also explained how Arab wealth was depleted in Iraq's war with Iran. He noted here that Egypt stood by Iraq when Iran started to occupy its land.

The information minister added that the president explained that after the Gulf states backed Iraq in its war with Iran, the Iraqi ambitions to usurp Kuwait surfaced. The president affirmed that the Iraqi ambitions were much bigger than Kuwait and that they involved the entire Gulf region.

The president then spoke about the miscalculations that always characterized the Iraqi regime's decisions, noting that the Iraqi calculations were always wrong when it tried to isolate Egypt. They failed to realize that it is impossible to do so, he said.

The president said that Iraq's war with Iran was based on wrong calculations. The Iraqi regime thought that it could absorb Egypt through the Arab Cooperation Council, but it failed to understand that Egypt can lead but cannot be led, he said, referring to the Iraqi miscalculations since the invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The president reiterated that Egypt has its firm and fixed principles regarding the various situations. He touched on Egypt's position on regional and international issues, reiterating that it insists on keeping the region free of mass-destruction weapons.

Morocco

King Hassan Views Casablanca Summit, Jerusalem

NC0911103894 London MBC Television in Arabic 1720 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Interview with King Hassan II of Morocco by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; monitored in progress—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, allow me to convey to you the views of the opponents who disagreed with the principle of holding the conference [Casablanca Economic Cooperation Conference]. Some opponents described the conference as a poisoned apple and a Trojan horse. Is the time appropriate for establishing cooperation with Israel before the peace project is completed?

[King Hassan] The use of the terms poisoned apple or Trojan horse was perhaps inappropriate. The citizens of Troy did not know there were soldiers inside the wooden horse. We knew of the risks involved. We also knew that the apple could be poisoned or [word indistinct]. Therefore, we had to taste the apple and not to swallow it at one gulp so that we would not be poisoned. We had to open a window in the Trojan horse so we could see if there was an ambush or not. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, what about Syria? Morocco and some other Arab states have established liaison offices with Israel, and Israel has been hosted in conferences. However, Israel is still in the first phase of negotiations. Didn't the conference isolate Syria and put it in a very difficult negotiating position?

[King Hassan] Not at all, not at all. In my speech, I said I understand Syria and its stance. In my capacity as the conference chairman and as an Arab, I believed I was speaking on behalf of the Arabs. [words indistinct] Syria's place, status, and seat in our conference are preserved. This is important in view of Syria's uniqueness and special identity and status not only in ancient and but also in modern history. Between me and Syria and between Morocco and Syria, there are ties known to all. Between me and President Hafiz al-Asad there is a well-known friendship built on mutual respect and appreciation. The seat is there. I do not say one seat. Syria can occupy two or three seats in view of its expertise in economic and development issues. Yes, Syria's territory is still occupied. It has the full right to demand a withdrawal from its territory.

[Correspondent] Jerusalem—naturally there can be no talk without the issue of Jerusalem being mentioned. Three states are currently quarreling over their right to administer Jerusalem. Is the administration for Israel, for Jordan, or for the Palestinians?

[King Hassan] At the same time, Morocco, Jordan, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. [sentence as heard] A long time ago the Arab League decided that Jerusalem is Palestinian. That is the position of the Arab League. Do others consider this a correct or an incorrect position? The important thing is that all the Arabs agree on this point, namely that Jerusalem is Palestinian. There is the ICO, which does not view the issue of Jerusalem from the same perspective as the Arabs. For Muslims, Jerusalem is the first qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn in praying] and the third holy shrine. They give to the issue of Jerusalem a religious importance and dimension different from

that given by the Arabs. I believe the ICO, which will convene in Casablanca next month, God willing, will give us the opportunity to unify our stand on what is desirable and what is possible. It is my personal belief that Jerusalem will not revert to its previous status as it was before the occupation. Therefore, we must take upon ourselves the huge effort of innovation and we must convince ourselves and convince others of the need to find a solution commensurate with reality and with our orthodox religion and [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] You have stated that Jerusalem will not revert to its pre-1967 status. What do you mean by this? It will not return in the sense of administration, or in the sense of its size? And therefore, what is the logical minimum I, as an Arab or a Muslim, can expect in this issue?

[King Hassan] The whole city of Jerusalem was under Jordanian sovereignty. First, it will not return to be under Jordanian sovereignty. If it returns, some of it will be under Palestinian sovereignty. The first element is that it will not return to its previous status. Second, what portion of Jerusalem will be under Palestinian sovereignty—one half, one third, or all? I believe it would be clutching at rainbows to expect that we can restore the whole of Jerusalem and control it politically and within a framework of sovereignty. That is the reality. I implore God that I am wrong. However, it is better for everyone to be armed with reality [words indistinct] the minimum of what the Arabs and Muslims can be persuaded to accept. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Addresses Western Sahara Issue

MS0811 i30094 London THE TIMES in English
1 Nov 94 p 19

[Letter from Khalil el Haddaoui, Moroccan Ambassador in London: "Western Sahara"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir, you published a letter in your October 24 issue, written by the Committee for a Free and Fair Referendum in the Western Sahara, [not filed] regarding the "non-implementation" of the UN settlement plan.

I believe that the members of the committee have not yet had the chance to see the UN Secretary General's latest report, and therefore I should like to bring to their attention (and that of your readers) the fact that Dr Butrus Butrus-Ghali underlined in his latest report (A/49/294) that Morocco had acquiesced in the compromise proposal in its current form, whilst Polisario have maintained very strong objections.

That notwithstanding, the peace plan is well on its way and the registration process has begun in earnest. We hope that the referendum will take place in early 1995, as proposed by the UN.

That being the case, we do not see the necessity for any further talks, as the writers of the letter urge. The UN

have a plan endorsed, unanimously, by the Security Council by virtue of many resolutions.

We invite our opponents and their sponsors to join us in lending a good hand to the UN Secretary General in his noble endeavours, in order to put an end to this issue. We further invite them to refrain from trying to conjure up more tricks, such as calling for direct talks which boil down to no more than delaying tactics.

Sudan

Army To Encircle Liberationists on Zairian Border

MM0811133794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im and Kamal Hamid: "Garang: Contacts Between Sudan and Zaire To Facilitate Encirclement of Our Positions"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Khartoum—Officials of the "mainstream" in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement stressed yesterday that the Sudanese Government is making contacts with Zaire with a view to facilitating the Sudanese Army's encirclement of the movement's positions on the border between the two countries. The spokesman for the Sudanese Army announced in Khartoum yesterday that government sources had been attacked by the rebels, stressing that the Army "will not be lax in safeguarding security."

A statement issued by the movement's regional office in Cairo pointed out that Sudanese authorities are seeking to cooperate with the Zairian Army to facilitate the passage into Zaire of forces from the Sudanese Army and the Popular Defense Forces led by Major General Azaya Paul. The statement said that the force, described as "big," plans to encircle the movement's positions near the border and to launch an offensive on three axes to take control of the towns of Maridi, Yambio, and Tambura, the movement's remaining most important centers in Western Equatoria Province. [passage omitted]

Government Reaches Agreement With Opposition Group

MM0711163394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
7 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamal Hamid and Nizar Daw-al-Na'im: "Sudan: Reconciliation Between al-Bashir And 'Ansar al-Sunnah'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Khartoum, London—The Sudanese Government has reached an agreement with the "Ansar al-Sunnah al-Muhammadiyah" group, ending the sharp disagreements that have existed between the two sides over the past four years and which led to the arrest of Shaykh Abu-Zayd Muhammad

Hamzah, the No. 2 man in the group, on several occasions and of a number of the group's members, and the closure of its offices in major cities.

Well-informed sources told AL-HAYAH that the mediation of Yusuf al-Kudah, a leading figure in the group, and his brother Mubarak al-Kudah, governor of a directorate in the east of the country, resulted in an agreement between the government and the group, under which the government undertakes to halt the arrests and harassment to which "Ansar al-Sunnah" leaders and activists are exposed, provided that the group eases its campaign against the government and stops trying to instigate public opinion against President 'Umar al-Bashir's regime.

It is noted that last Friday Sudanese television transmitted prayers from the "Ansar al-Sunnah" Mosque in the al-Sajjanah district, south of Khartoum. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned that last week "Ansar al-Sunnah" submitted a memorandum demanding the release of two of the group's activists arrested recently. Last month Al-Bashir appointed Shaykh Muhammad Hashim al-Siddiq, a leading figure in the group, as member of the Supreme Peace Council [al-majlis al-a'la li al-salam]. And Shaykh al-Hadiyah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (parliament), met with Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Denies Reconciliation

MM0811133594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Nov 94 p1

[Report by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan: "No Peaceful Solution in Sudan Without Return of Legitimacy and an End to the 'War'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party has denied any inclination toward unilateral reconciliation with the government of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that participation of opposition figures in the present government was out of the question. He added: "The only possibility is that of a collective meeting with the participation of everyone, at home and abroad, a meeting that would lead to a democratic and peaceful change, end the war, and establish peace. I am ready for such a plan. I am not prepared to discuss anything else."

Al-Mahdi confirmed a statement he made previously, that there is no basis of legitimacy at present. He added: "We will continue to call for such a basis and for the restoration of legitimacy. So long as they (in the government) do not respond to that, there will remain a conflict between us and them and we will continue to advocate legitimacy." Al-Mahdi spoke of divisions within the

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ranks of the current regime and an oscillation between the supporters of openness to the West and of reaching agreement with the southerners and those opposed to that line.

Planning Minister on Peace Hopes, Reconciliation

MM0911111694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 94 p2

[Interview with Social Planning Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Hasan] How do you view what Colonel John Garang has been doing lately?

[Taha] In the view of many observers, Garang lost the war when he announced that he was shifting from regular war, which he started in 1983, to guerrilla war. By reverting to guerrilla warfare, the movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] lost all the gains it had made. It should also be noted that the current circumstances are different from the 1983 circumstances when he was supported by neighboring states and when Ethiopia opened its territory and its arsenals to him and gave him access to its broadcasting station. His forces then managed to occupy vast areas in the south, and he was supported by numerous other powers. In 1990, after the Gulf war, the United States accorded him the same reception it reserves for presidents and it opened all its political institutions to him, but when he returned early in 1994, the reception he was given was described as lukewarm reflecting the decisionmakers' disappointment in him.

I believe that John Garang has lost his political and military qualities and is no longer reliable.

The hopes for peace will continue and will be pressing for many reasons but the facts indicate that Garang has not learned past lessons and has so far not changed his method and approach to the question of peace. So there is not much hope that anything positive will come from him. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] Is there any truth in the claims that there are differences within the regime?

[Taha] There are no differences.

[Al-Hasan] What about the rumors about reconciliation?

[Taha] Internal reconciliation has made long strides forward at the level of the grass roots and the government with the introduction of new initiatives and new scopes for participation—the latest being the federal government law—including large-scale participation at all levels in the 26 federal [local] governments and parliaments because the members of these governments and parliaments cannot all come from the National Islamic Front [NIF]. And there is the election law which provides the opportunity for greater participation by all

citizens. Nobody is barred so long as there is commitment to the general principles. Participation is open to everyone but there will be no symbolic figures reconciliation as in 1976.

EU Statement on Housing Incidents Assailed

EA0411173094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has condemned the allegations made by the European Union in a statement issued at the beginning of this month about the incidents of the haphazard dwellings in the (al-Khudayr) area of Omdurman, and the imaginary description it contained, exaggerating the scale of these incidents.

In a statement it issued today, the Foreign Ministry confirmed that the elimination of haphazard houses was being carried out in accordance with scientific and legal foundation. The statement explained the [word indistinct] conduct by the European Union which has been silent regarding the bombardment and destruction to which southern Lebanon and Muslim areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected, and the persecution and killing to which religious and ethnic minorities are subjected, and the burning of their homes in numerous European states and the United States. This conduct aims at escalating the hostile onslaught against Sudan and its cultural orientation.

The Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the European Union, with all the resources at its disposal, would try to be accurate choosing the correct sources for its information on Sudan, particularly as the doors of all the officials are open to respond to the European Union, and other regional and international organizations and diplomatic missions.

Report on Future Negotiations With IMF

EA0511150494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another round of negotiations between Sudan and the IMF begins today. The round aims at reaching a final agreement regarding economic and monetary policies between the two sides. Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad explained in a statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper published in Khartoum this morning, that the round of negotiations scheduled for today, is regarded as final and comes after numerous meetings held in Khartoum and New York.

The minister added that the meetings should reach a comprehensive agreement to be presented to the fund's board of directors next January so that the question of Sudan's relationship with the fund is finally settled. The finance minister expressed his hope that an agreement will be reached that will be satisfactory to both sides so

that economic considerations overcome political ones in the meetings of the fund's board of directors next January.

Minister, U.S. Delegation Discuss Investments

EA0811162094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The minister of industry and commerce, Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, has held discussions with a delegation of American businessmen on the possibilities of investing in sugar production and processing, and grain production.

Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa briefed them on the possibilities of investing in agriculture and industry in Sudan as well as the opportunities for investment in the White Nile region particularly in the irrigation canal belt of al-Rahad and Kinanah. He also discussed opportunities for investment in wheat production in the Northern State pointing to the different advantages of investment there. [passage omitted]

The visit of the American delegation is aimed at opening a new horizon of commercial cooperation with Sudan especially in the field of exporting agricultural produce.

Tunisia

Ben Ali on Peace Process, Foreign Policy

LD0711145394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1029 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of his coming to power, in Tunis—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Out of our efforts to continue our role in pushing forward the peace process and helping the Palestinian brothers to surmount their difficulties relating to entrenching their home-rule authority, and out of our commitment to support them in the new stage of their struggle, we had offered them our advice and consultation in order to meet all they ask and in order to serve their cause and strengthen the foundations of their emerging state. This included our decision to establish a liaison office in Gaza and Jericho to embody the recent cooperation agreement between us and to establish a liaison channel with Israel to facilitate the early transfer and expansion of authority to the Palestinians and the recovery of the occupied Arab territories. [applause]

As the talks continue to progress between the sides concerned and to see the tangible evidence of their results, we will develop our relations with Israel as a contribution toward establishing comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the area and to enable the states of the area to focus on development and progress under the auspices of coexistence and cooperation.

From the same platforms we renewed our determination to put an end to the hotbeds of tension in the Gulf region. We underlined our country's attachment to solving disputes by peaceful means on the basis of international legitimacy and its adherence to the safety of all the area states and the unity of their soil.

We reaffirm the sanctity of the soil of the State of Kuwait and its independence and establishing relations with the states of the area on the basis of right and good-neighborliness; we renew our sympathy with the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people as a result of the sanctions imposed on them, and call for their removal. [applause]

Also, our stand with regard to the suffering of the fraternal Libyan people, concerning the conflict with some Western powers, which has become protracted. This has harmed the interests of the peoples of the area and it has had a negative effect on realizing their aspirations in integration, solidarity, unity, and paying attention to building their development on a firm basis of security and stability. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Butrus-Ghali Proposes Referendum Delay

LD0911093194 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali submitted a preliminary report to the Security Council the day before yesterday on developments in the UN-African peace plan aimed at organizing a self-determination referendum for the Saharan people.

In the report the secretary general proposed postponing the referendum from mid-February as previously agreed, justifying this by saying that the process of identifying voters still needed more time.

He said that he would visit the region at the end of this month to consult with the two parties in the conflict—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [POLISARIO] and Morocco—and to remove obstacles hindering implementation of the peace plan.

He also expressed his intention to send a technical team to evaluate the situation on the ground and to strengthen the UN mission in the Western Sahara. He stressed that he would submit a detailed report to the Security Council after his visit, which contained necessary measures to speed up organization of the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara.

He said the UN committee responsible for identifying voters was drowned with registration requests at the last minute, a clear indication that tens of thousands of settlers who were deported by the Moroccan Government to occupied towns from the Western Sahara were

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being imposed [by Morocco] as voters in the referendum. A response is expected this week from the Security Council on the secretary general's report.

Polisario Head Calls For Direct Talks

MS0811130994 London *THE TIMES* in English
8 Nov 94 p 19

[Letter from Lamine Baali, Polisario chief representative in UK: "Western Sahara"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir, I was deeply puzzled by the letter from the Moroccan Ambassador (November 1) on the subject of Western Sahara. His self-righteous tone implies that Morocco is not to blame for the delays in organising the referendum in Western Sahara. But if Morocco is not responsible, who is?

The ambassador does not mention the numerous actions undertaken by his country over the last three years to obstruct progress in implementing the UN settlement

plan. The most important of these are the hundreds of ceasefire violations perpetrated by the Moroccan military, the arrest and imprisonment of many Saharawi civilians, the deliberate resettlement of tens of thousands of Moroccans in the occupied territory, and a systematic refusal to admit either the media or international observers to monitor implementation of the plan.

A resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly last weekend emphasised the importance and usefulness of direct dialogue between the two parties, Morocco and Polisario. This is certainly the best, if not the only, way to ensure the atmosphere of serenity and trust needed for a free and fair referendum without military or administrative constraints.

We earnestly hope that Morocco will have the sense to resume direct dialogue as soon as possible, putting an end to more than 20 years of Saharawi suffering caused by the invasion and occupation of Western Sahara.

Saudi Arabia**Jordan Names Ambassador to Riyadh**

NC0811145994 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT
8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Nov 8 (AFP)—Jordan for the first time in two years named an ambassador to Saudi Arabia as the Arab neighbors moved to heal a rift that began during the 1990 Gulf crisis, officials said Tuesday [8 November].

With Hani al-Khalifah, Jordan's former head of mission in Canada, named to head the embassy in Riyadh, Amman "expected Saudi Arabia to appoint an ambassador to Jordan soon," a senior Jordanian official told AFP.

An exchange of ambassadors "would help clear the misunderstanding which marked relations between the two countries in the last four years," he said on condition his name not be used.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry two months ago received Saudi permission to boost to four the number of its accredited diplomats in Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia on September 22, 1990, expelled most Jordanian diplomats, allowing only an ambassador and one diplomat to stay in the country, after it accused Jordan of siding with Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait.

Three days later Jordan recalled its ambassador then sent him back to Riyadh on December 24, 1990. In 1992, Amman again recalled its ambassador and kept only one diplomat in the Saudi capital.

Riyadh recalled its ambassador from Amman on October 6, 1990, and has kept only a charge d'affaires since then.

Mufti Urges Use of Shari'ah for Muslim Disputes

LD0711195694 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT
7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Nov. 7, IRNA—Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, said resorting to un-Islamic bodies like the International Court of Justice in [The] Hague to decide disputes among Muslims is not permissible, Saudi daily ARAB NEWS reported in a recent issue. In a statement issued in Riyadh, the Saudi mufti underlined the importance of solving all kinds of disputes among the rulers of Muslim countries in accordance with the sharia' (Islamic laws). He called for the formation of a shari'ah court or commission comprising Islamic scholars acceptable to all sides of the dispute and known for piety and scholarship to decide the dispute in accordance with Islamic laws.

Yemen**President Salih Discusses Internal Affairs**

NC0911072794 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic
31 Oct 94 p 9

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Yusuf al-Sharif in Sanaa and al-Mukalla; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Sharif] Aren't you concerned about unity?

[Salih] No matter how much they scheme and regardless of their scheming machinations and methods against unity, they will inevitably fail. The people, the Armed Forces, and the security agencies will confront them, now that the separatists' conspiratorial schemes have been uncovered. We are now here in Hadhramaut, which they planned to turn into a mini-state if the conspiracy to take Yemen back to what it used to be prior to 22 May 1990 failed.

[Al-Sharif] After the war, it seems that it is inevitable for security reasons to exclude some Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] figures from the positions of governors. But this could be abused. The pro-separatist press abroad is full of stories about searches. One of the Yemeni writers, whose political integrity, patriotism, and faith in the unity I trust, has described what happened as an occupation of Aden.

[Salih] When someone tells you that Aden is under occupation, tell him that if you look at it that way, if you are not born in Sanaa but you live there, then you are occupying Sanaa. If Yusuf al-Sharif is born in Sanaa and works and lives in Aden, does that make him an occupier? We are a single Yemeni people unified since time immemorial from the far north to the far south and from the far east to the far west. No one could be an occupier in his own homeland.

[Al-Sharif] Although I admit the need to secure the unity, yet I hoped that there would be southern elements in the police force and army. I do not know if this is the case of not.

[Salih] First of all, there is nothing called southern or northern elements; there are Yemeni elements from various places. For your information, the army troops now, whether those in Aden or in other governorates, come from all over the country and are grouped together. Even some of the military personnel who were stationed in the former southern part and who rebelled and sided with the separatists are now present in Sa'dah, Hajjah, (al-Muhrah), and Lahij, and the opposite is true. The whole army is now a single national establishment. When you see units in Hadhramaut, you will notice that they are merged and symbolize national unity. The army is now merged and is from all over Yemen, and the same goes for the commanders. Administration, too, has been established on national foundations. For instance in Hadhramaut, where we are now, you will notice that

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most if not all of the administration's personnel come from the same province. The military commanders are from the same governorate or other governorates. You could check that out by visiting military units and security forces and see where the personnel, commanders, and officers come from. You will find that they are all mixed and that the merge has been done on a serious and national basis.

[Al-Sharif] I noticed in your official and non-official statements that you talk about separatists and not the YSP. Is it because the YSP, following the reorganization of its institutions and revision of its public policy line, is innocent of the separatist conspiracy?

[Salih] The separatists were not from the YSP only. Some from the YSP followed separatists from outside the party, such as al-Jifri. Some people from outside the YSP supported and stood by the separatists.

[Al-Sharif] What are the dangers you expect? The revolution is continuing and the unity is continuing, but what do you expect the conspiracy to be like?

[Salih] The conspiracy will not be bigger than what has happened. The conspiracy now takes on an economic form against the citizens' livelihood. However, the people know how to abort all conspiracies because this is nothing new to us. We have been facing challenges for 32 years. The people's will is capable of failing all conspiracies, as it did in the past.

[Al-Sharif] Is there any need to have the people shoulder their share of the security responsibility, particularly after you have seen the feeble security mechanism during your tours in Hadhramaut and Shabwah Governorates yesterday?

[Salih] There is security and there is stability. There are, however, 3,000 security men, who were under the command of the secessionists. These men continue to receive their salaries. Although the performance of most of these men is unsatisfactory, we continue to pay their salaries. We issued instructions for the retraining of these men. But if they fail to improve their performance and confirm their allegiance to unity, they will be replaced by men from these areas.

[Al-Sharif] I have met with YSP temporary secretary 'Ali Salih 'Abbad. He told me that the indiscriminate search campaigns are continuing against some YSP members and that two security men died while storming a house belonging to a YSP member in Aden. How many political detainees are there?

[Salih] There is not a single political detainee. But as a politically defeated party, the YSP is not willing to accept this defeat. Accordingly, the YSP is resorting to false slogans. The party is saying that it has been hunted down and that there is a campaign of arrests in order to give the impression that it is the victim and not the criminal.

However, in my capacity as a responsible person, I can confirm to you that there is not one political detainee. As is known, the YSP leadership, and not 'Ali Salih 'Abbad, is secessionist. It has always been the party's policy and line that if a person is imprisoned for a criminal case it would say that this person is a party member and he is a political detainee. The YSP is sending its organizational members to prisons to look for criminals and murderers so that they would later say that these are members of the party and they are political detainees. The party is resorting to such methods for certain objectives. Perhaps it has escaped the minds of some people that such practices have been exposed and their objectives are well-known to our people.

[Al-Sharif] Mr. President, how much do you believe in the credibility of the new YSP leadership and in its faith in unity?

[Salih] I have confidence in the new leadership. It has started to pursue a national objective line. It has also started to free itself of the secessionist leadership's practices which only triggered wars and ruin.

[Al-Sharif] The party has expelled four of its secessionist leaders, while the prosecutor general issued a warrant for the arrest of 16 persons. I have learned that you have discussed this issue with the new leadership. But the matter has been postponed until after the party's fourth congress. I also learned that all aspects of the crisis will be discussed through a democratic dialogue. What is the status of those who returned to the homeland?

[Salih] In fact, many groups have returned from abroad. Those had either supported or wavered on secession. But the secessionist elements and leaders will not return. The secessionist leadership consists of more than 16 persons. There are many more. We said the figure is 16 for political reasons and to safeguard the national unity. But they, themselves, know that the figure is much more. We will welcome them and we hope that they will criticize their stand.

[Al-Sharif] What if all of the 16 members returned?

[Salih] We will refer them to the judiciary. They will be welcome if they are acquitted by the judiciary. But if they are incriminated they will have to bear the responsibility for their crime, each according to his role and the magnitude of his crime.

[Al-Sharif] What about the storming of the party members' houses?

[Salih] As a journalist you are entitled to visit all the governorates. You may ask the people and parties about this so that you can publish the facts.

[Al-Sharif] The YSP's departure from power has put it in the opposition, something that has caused damage to its cadres, such as the under secretaries of ministries?

[Salih] The YSP is out of the government coalition, but the status of cadres is governed by the Civil Service Law.

The coalition involved major political positions, such as ministers, deputy ministers, governors, and deputies [not further specified]. As for general directors and chairmen of institutions, those among them who prove their loyalty to the homeland and efficiency have nothing to fear.

[Al-Sharif] Will the criteria for selection or appointment in the consultative council, scheduled to be established, depend on political consideration or expertise?

[Salih] The criteria will be loyalty to the homeland, faith in unity, expertise, and efficiency. The representation of all governorates will be taken into account, but will not necessarily be the basis. If the YSP has patriotic and efficient elements who have proved their loyalty to the homeland and the unity, denounced the separation, and condemned the corrupt and treacherous people, the road for them to participate is open.

[Al-Sharif] Who will have the power to select members of the consultative council? Will the council have something to do with the government's job?

[Salih] The Constitution rests this authority with the president. Undoubtedly the consultative council will advise the government. We have instructed the new government, led by Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, to activate the Local Government Law to reduce the acute centralization, wage war on corruption and all issues inherited from the pre-revolution, colonialist, and partition eras, and to alleviate the sufferings of the people, particularly the low-income people. Traitor Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas had powers exceeding those of the Chairman of the Presidential Council at the time, but for four years he deliberately failed to tackle a single problem or oversee the implementation of a single project. The purpose of this was to make the unity fail and lead the masses to lose faith in this great accomplishment, as a prelude to preparing the way for the separation, so that the masses may not condemn the totalitarian regime of the YSP.

[Al-Sharif] The House of Representatives has ordered scientific institutions to be under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, but so far this has not happened. The fundamentalists are starting to build a private non-coed university. From what I know, Islam in Yemen is tolerant and no one religious trend is ranked better than another.

[Salih] Any political extremism, whether rightist or religious, is a reaction to the practices of the Marxists and secularists. Had they believed in moderation, lived in reality, proceeded from the Islamic creed, and had faith in and loyalty to the homeland, there would not be Islamic extremism. The Islamic movements in the world have come into existence as a result of the failure of Marxism and pan-Arabism. Why then get frustrated with the Islamists when we did not do so with Marxists? Let us try. What counts is loyalty to the homeland, commitment to the Constitution, and acknowledgement of constitutional legality and peaceful handover of power, and

this is what happened. During the war, the Presidential Council was made of two major parties: The General People's Congress [GPC] and the Reform Grouping. With the constitutional amendments, the Grouping acknowledged the peaceful handover of power and left the Presidential Council. So why should I acknowledge the existence of the YSP as a secularist trend and act as a stumbling bloc for the Islamists? I consider Salim Salih an opportunist fundamentalist and [YSP former secretary general] al-Bid a traitor who has sold his homeland. Who is better? I am with the Islamists to the extent that they are loyal to the homeland and to the extent that they care for its interests, safety, and national unity. Had the YSP been patriotic, pan-Arab, and faithful to national inalienable principles, there would not have been any problem. The Islamists must have a presence like the Socialists and the pan-Arabists. What is important is the people's confidence and commitment to democracy and the national inalienable principles.

[Al-Sharif] It is being reported that Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Makki will not return to Yemen following the attempt on his life.

[Salih] Who said this? It is untrue. Dr. Makki is a dear person and is a great patriot and struggler and is currently completing his medical treatment. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] There was an agreement to keep the Army away from the cities. When will this agreement be reconsidered?

[Salih] For your information there were two camps in Sanaa and 15 in Aden. Aden was a British colony which the British filled with camps and weapons. Now the Army is not present in the cities. The security and police alone carry out their duties in keeping law and order.

[Al-Sharif] Certain people understand your choice of Dr. al-Iryani as foreign minister because he represents a tough political line, whereas Basindwah came on the heels of the Gulf crisis as a representative of a political line characterized by flexibility. Is this true?

[Salih] Persons are governed by institutions and the Constitution. However, certain countries have not yet accepted that we are a democratic country with institutions. We govern within the framework of a general policy. Al-Iryani, whether you like it or not, will implement Yemen's policy, and so will Basindwah. Any official will implement Yemen's policy. There is no such thing as an extremist or tough politician who pursues his own policy. An individual is not a ruler. The Constitution and the policies approved by the Parliament and government governs everyone. Any person in any position will implement specific and approved policy.

[Al-Sharif] Is Egypt is annoyed by the presence of Egyptian extremists in Yemen?

[Salih] Give me the name of any Egyptian who disturbs or plots against Egypt's security in Yemen. We will

interrogate him and punish him and prevent him from acting against Egypt. The government does not support and will not allow any forces to work against the Egyptian people. Yemen will not embrace any such forces as is the case in Egypt where there are certain separatists who carry out activities inimical to the Yemeni people and their unity. We will not allow any forces whatsoever to act against the Egyptian regime or the fraternal Egyptian people. In return, we hope that Egypt will dispose of the Yemeni separatist individuals in Egypt so that it will not serve as a springboard for actions against unified Yemen.

[Al-Sharif] In London these separatist leaderships announced the formation of the so-called national opposition front. How will you deal with this front?

[Salih] Anyone who left the homeland will have the same fate as the deposed Imam al-Badr. Any person who opposes the homeland will be considered as belonging to the defunct reactionary regime and in the dump of history.

[Al-Sharif] Regarding Aden, you stated that the government will move there in winter, particularly as there are hopes that it will become an economic zone.

[Salih] The government is committed to its announcement regarding Aden and will move to Aden to discharge its duties during the winter.

[Al-Sharif] There are Yemeni, Arab, and international fears regarding the possibility of curtailing democratic freedom of expression in light of the secessionist plot, particularly after increasing censorship recently of an opposition paper.

[Salih] You can quote me that I will not sign a decision backing down on democracy and political plurality. There was temporary censorship of newspapers during the war, which is a normal measure taken by most democratic countries in time of war to safeguard their national security. Now we do not censor papers, not even other Arab or foreign newspapers. The lawsuit filed by that newspaper against the information minister is now irrelevant.

Paper Cautions Against Economic Talks With Israel

JN0911112094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0843 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has warned against the dangers posed by the economic chapter in the settlement plan in the region to the future of the Arab interests and the strength of pan-Arab relations.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the recent economic meetings threaten the incorporation of the Zionist entity into the region and allowing Israel to enter the region's states with its full weight.

Pointing to the large Zionist delegation to the Casablanca summit, which was led by Yitzhaq Rabin, the paper says that the size of the delegation shows Israel's interest in this issue.

BABIL notes that these meetings are essentially aimed at peddling the Middle Eastern market concept. The paper says: If achieved, it would be at the expense of the basic constituents of economic cooperation among the Arab states. It would also weaken any formula for any Arab economic coordination through replacing the Arab homeland with the concept of the Middle East region.

The paper urges the Arab states to strongly confront these hostile trends through adhering to national and pan-Arab constants, concentrating on the bases of Arab economic cooperation, and resorting to the best means to entrench trade exchange and joint investment of Arab resources.

The paper says that failure to realize this and to expedite its implementation will pave the way for the prevalence of the concept of the Middle Eastern market being peddled by Washington and Tel Aviv.

Press Analyzes 6 Nov Iranian Missile Attack

JN0911123694 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 9, INA—In early hours of Sunday [6 November], Iranian forces launched three surface-to-surface missiles on Iraqi territory. The Iranian regime claimed that the attack was in retaliation for an earlier operation by the Mujahedin Khalq who denied the Teheran allegations, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said today.

A paper article added what happened on Sunday provides yet another indicator of the aggressive nature of the Iranian regime, this regime persists in heightening tension on the border with neighbouring Iraq.

It stressed that the unprovoked and unjustified Iranian attack comes within the hostile policy that led to a devastating war which aimed to weaken Iraq and instigate sectarian strife among its people.

Speaking about Iran's dubious role in undermining stability in the Arab Gulf region, one should always remember that the Iranian regime's behaviour has done the "great satan", or America, a great service. It had prolonged the war against Iraq for eight long years, turning down scores of peace offers to stop the armed conflict between the two countries.

The Teheran regime manifested the highest forms of hypocrisy when it agreed to receive weapons from Israel in what has become to be known as the Irangate scandal.

The paper pointed out that the rulers of Iran have played a treacherous role in the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq in 1991. They sent their saboteurs across the border to sow death and chaos in many Iraqi provinces in the wake of the most vicious war of aggression against a single country by the armies of over 30 states.

These same rulers have been involved in Western plots to sabotage Iraq's economy through counterfeiting Iraqi money and other means.

The paper added that the Iranian regime has not worked towards normalising relations with Iraq despite calls by the latter to settle suspending issues. It is still refusing to release thousands of Iraqi POW's six years after the cessation of hostilities between the two countries.

The regime in Iran is infringing upon Iraq's sovereignty under the pretext that Iraq harbours Iranian resistance. But they seem to forget that the Mujahedin as well as other groups operate from many countries of the world, including those neighbouring Iran. So why specifically Iraq?

Iran has been, and continues to be, a source of instability in the region, and it has become crystal clear that the country's rulers are serving the interests of imperialist powers, the paper concluded.

AL-THAWRAH daily today has tackled the Iranian missile attack on the Iraqi territories on Sunday and described it as a message of appeasement from Tehran to Washington and Tel Aviv.

The Arab Ba'th Socialist Party organ daily has said in an analysis that Iran aimed from that aggression at presenting proofs to the Zionists and Americans on Teheran rulers preparedness to harm Iraq.

It has further said the recent Iranian aggression addresses Washington and Tel Aviv with a frank sentence "Teheran is ready to play once again the role which the Shah was preparing Iran to do, i.e. the role of the regional guard to the American and Zionist interests in the region."

AL-TAWRAH daily has also brought back to mind intentions of the American presence in the Arab Gulf region after the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and the formulas and new balances it has created.

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It has said that Teheran expressed caution that the American presence in the region may deprive it of its dream in performing that role and therefore, it has intentionally embarked on, in timing with Washington's readiness to withdraw its forces from the region, reminding the White House administration that it is qualified to undertake and carry out what the American forces were intending to do against Iraq.

The daily has drawn attention of Teheran rulers to two facts they have ignored and been deluded by them, the first of which is that the American administration had entrusted the Zionist entity with the tasks of protecting Washington's and Tel Aviv's interests and secondly that the world has realized more than any time before that Iraq is the regional power qualified to curb caprice and ambitions of deluded regional forces whether they were Iranian or Zionist and that Baghdad is the power which creates the present regional balance that does not permit the U.S. interests to have the upper hand on oil fields.

AL-THAWRAH concluded by ridiculing dreams of Iran's rulers by begging satisfaction of the White House and said that Rafsanjani was trying to convince the United States that he was the appropriate man for this stage.

Kuwaitis To End Protest Camp Near al-Basrah

JN0811200394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT
8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 8 Nov (INA)—The League of People With Rights has ended its protest camp. Thousands of Kuwaitis deported from their homeland took part in the camp. The camp was set up on the fringes of the no-man's-land south of al-Basrah.

A large number of deportees and their families gathered at the camp, where they delivered speeches to explain their legitimate demands to repatriation to Kuwait and their right to citizenship. They also explained about their rights that have been usurped by the cliques of the ruling family.

Afterward, the protesters held a teeming demonstration that proceeded from the center of the camp toward the site of the international observers in the no-man's-land, carrying Arabic and English placards urging international organizations to intervene and facilitate their repatriation and the restoration of their usurped rights. They also demanded that their detained relatives in Kuwaiti prisons be released.

The Kuwaiti citizens delivered a memorandum of protest to an international observation official in which they urged the United Nations to raise their legitimate issues at the Security Council and to issue resolutions binding Kuwait to acknowledge their right to repatriation and citizenship.

It is worth noting that the camp was set up by the League of People with Rights south of al-Basrah for 30 days.

About 250,000 citizens took part in the camp and received representatives of world humanitarian organizations and correspondents of Arab and world newspapers, news agencies, and television networks.

Security Council Session on Sanctions Previewed

JN0711122094 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT
7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov.7, INA—The Iraqi English language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said within few days the Security Council which have been on for more than four years, as the Council do so every two months [sentence incomplete as received]. However, the coming review which is expected to take place on November 14 is of special interest as Iraq has met all its commitments towards the Security Council resolution.

The paper said that Iraq has also announced in the joint statement issued following the recent visit of the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Iraq, that it is ready to recognise Kuwait provided that the Council sets and identified date of lifting the sanctions.

However, the U.S. and its allies in the Gulf have rejected Iraq's olive branch as they do always. Iraq and any one who is observing the situation expect that the Council would think seriously about lifting the sanctions.

Nevertheless, the U.S. and Britain and their puppet regimes in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia do not want to see the sanctions are lifted because it would be against their interest in the region, the paper stressed.

Both the USA and Britain are deploying their troops in the region who are well-paid by the Kuwaitis and Saudis. Both countries want to see their troops are stationed in the region for long time in order to defend their own interest namely controlling the Arab oil.

So, the lift of the sanctions against Iraq would bring peace and stability to this region, a fact the U.S. and its allies do not want to see whatsoever.

The paper stressed that the U.S., Britain and their puppet regimes in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have rejected the Russian good-will gesture namely setting a fixed date for ending the embargo for the exchange of Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. These countries would continue to do so and foil any attempt to solve the issue between the two countries.

This American and British behaviour has been reflected in the recent escalation of the situation when Iraq only changed the positions of two of its army battalions on its own territory. They accused Iraq of building-up troops near the border with Kuwait in order to justify their deployment of their troops in the region.

The paper said when Iraq withdrew its troops from the south to positions further north, the Americans and British continue massing their troops in Kuwait which is

a clear scheme that the U.S. and Britain have sought to do long time ago. U.S. White House spokesman has recently confirmed that these troops would remain in Kuwait: thus assuring a real U.S. military occupation of the Arab Gulf region.

It pointed out that this American-British policy of colonization has become clear to world countries leading most of them to adopt new policy towards the issue between Iraq and Kuwait after they were in the so-called "coalition" in 1991. Russia now wants the Security Council to set an exact time for ending the sanctions on Iraq. France wants the Council to refer to Iraq's cooperation with U.S. [as received] Special Commission, China and many other countries are also for an end to the sanctions.

Many countries have recently sent representatives of their big companies to conclude trade deals with Iraq to be fulfilled as soon as the sanctions are lifted.

It is quite known that the U.S. and Britain would again prevent any attempt by other Security Council members to lift the sanctions or even identifying a date for lifting them during the coming review of the sanctions. However, permanent members of the Council are urged to announce clearly their positions from the unjust sanctions and press on other members to set a fixed date for ending them, the paper concluded.

Baghdad Reportedly Training Arabs in Sabotage

NC0811185294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The NIDA' AL-RAFIDAYN paper has published a report that Iraqi intelligence, in cooperation with the military intelligence service, has established a secret camp in the al-Nasiriyah Governorate desert to train Arab citizens. Citing exclusive sources, the paper said that these Arab nationals are from Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, and Palestine. The Iraqi regime assembled them in this camp and is training them in explosives, assassinations, and other acts of sabotage. Iraqi opposition sources said that the 'Aflaqite regime is likely to send these recruits to Yemen and from there to other countries to carry out acts of terror.

Talabani, Barzani Discuss Hurdles to Normalization

NC0811181794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1200 yesterday brother Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, visited the headquarters of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, in the summer resort of (Sarakash). He was warmly welcomed by Barzani. During their meeting they discussed the most outstanding problems and hurdles obstructing the normalization of the situation in Kurdistan. The two leaders stressed the need for denying certain people any opportunity to sow sedition and division among the Kurdish parties. They also stressed the need to consolidate law and order throughout Kurdistan.

Opposition Radio Reports Explosion in Mosul

JN0811195294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosive device has gone off near Mosul Governorate House. Ambulance and police cars rushed to the scene to cordon off the area and evacuate the victims. Citizens were ordered to keep away out of fear that they would discover the real extent of the losses. A number of citizens at the scene were arrested and nearby shops were ordered to shut down.

The situation in Mosul has deteriorated sharply. There has been an increase in checkpoints and joint military police, intelligence, and security patrols to pursue the fugitives and create a state of fear in order to prevent a repetition of what happened in 1991.

Laws Limit Gold, Currency Held by Travelers

JN0811180894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1504 GMT 8 Nov 94

[From "The Economic Bulletin" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has recently issued stringent laws limiting the quantity of gold and foreign currency carried by travelers. Travelers are permitted to carry 50 grams of gold and U.S. \$50. These measures aim to improve the Iraqi economic situation and curb the decreasing [Iraqi] dinar's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar.

Rabin 'Certain' of U.S. Support After Elections

TA0911081994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he is certain that U.S. support for Israel will continue after the U.S. elections. There is wide-ranging support for Israel in both parties, he said. Rabin stressed that he has no intention of saying anything about the United States' internal affairs, but the support for Israel is clear. Jack Katzenell gave us Mr. Rabin's remarks.

Savir 'Optimistic' About U.S. Ties After Elections

TA0911055994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505
GMT 9 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Einstein] We would like an initial reaction to the outcome of the U.S. elections. We heard [Jerusalem University] Professor Eytan Gilboa saying that the Republican landslide victory is not good for Israel.

[Savir] I do not think this is the time for a reaction. I am not sure it is an issue for a reaction. After almost every internal U.S. event, the pundits claim it is not good for Israel. The reality is that both parties support the State of Israel. We are often positively surprised. What is important is continuity and the administration's involvement. I will wait and see the political reality before passing from commentary to a reaction.

[Einstein] I analyze that as saying you are being very cautious in your reaction.

[Savir] Cautious from prior experience, but in general optimistic about Israeli-U.S. relations, also from prior experience. [passage omitted]

Rabin Hopes for Close Cooperation With Jordan

TA0911120394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100
GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says he expects cooperation with Jordan to be better than with Egypt. He was speaking to UJA [United Jewish Appeal] fund raisers from Philadelphia on the eve of tomorrow's ceremony in which he and King Husayn will exchange letters ratifying the peace treaty. At the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem where the prime minister was speaking, was our reporter Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin expressed great hopes for the future of cooperation between Israel and Jordan. There was an enthusiastic reaction from the UJA fund raisers when the prime minister announced tomorrow's ceremony at the Shaykh Husayn Bridge and at Tzemah on the Sea of Galilee.

[Rabin] We signed a peace treaty. Tomorrow, King Husayn and myself, on the shores of the Lake of Galilee, will exchange the ratified peace treaties between Jordan and Israel [applause].

[Katzenell] Rabin said the peace treaty with Jordan is very important and could lead to closer cooperation than Israel has with Egypt.

[Rabin] With Jordan we have the longest border on the ground than with any other Arab country. It is much closer. The people of Jordan are closer geographically to us than the Egyptians. And I hope that as a result of this, the cooperation in many aspects of our life will be better. We live in peace for almost 16 years. Our export to Chile is higher than our export to Egypt.

[Katzenell] With Jordan, Rabin hoped, there would be many more joint ventures. [end recording]

Mordekhay Said Proposed Ambassador to Jordan

TA0911055394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500
GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has learned that the Prime Minister's Bureau has proposed that Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, who is about to retire from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], be appointed Israel's ambassador in Jordan. Two previous candidates were Efrayim Halevi of the Mosad, who was involved in the negotiations with Jordan, and Eytan Bentzur, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, who was also involved in the negotiations.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 9 November carries a live telephone interview with Gen. Mordekhay in which he calls the report "irresponsible and baseless, which at best is part of the psychological warfare aimed at spreading disinformation."]

Rabin Denies Mordekhay Ambassadorship

TA0911113894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100
GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Prime Minister's Bureau said that Mr. Rabin has not officially offered anybody the post of Israeli ambassador to Jordan, and no candidate has been decided upon for the position. The remarks were made in response to reports that Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay is the prime minister's candidate for the post of ambassador to Jordan.

Senior IDF Officer: Al-Asad Cannot Be Trusted

TA0811162394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500
GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch officer said today that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's word of honor on keeping agreements cannot be trusted and that very well defined security arrangements on the Golan Heights should be made before any other step is taken.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the senior officer made the remarks at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in response to a remark by a committee member who said that a member of the Turkish prime minister's entourage told him that al-Asad has not kept 18 agreements he had signed with Turkey. The senior intelligence officer said that, from the Syrian president's point of view, agreements only serve his interests and that he implements them only when it is convenient for him or if he fears that he may be harmed if he does not.

Speaking on the Palestinian issue, the senior officer said that 'Arafat is an omnipotent ruler in the Gaza Strip and Jericho but that his men portray him as weak in order to obtain Israeli concessions. He added that many members of the Palestinian administration in the Gaza Strip not only are corrupt but also oppose democracy and do not function properly. Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service, is 'Arafat's representative not only in Judaea and Samaria, but also in Jerusalem, the officer said. Al-Rujub's men are forcefully preventing the Jordanian Waqf personnel from operating on the Temple Mount.

Further on Senior Officer's Estimates

TA0911121794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
9 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The political stands of Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Ami-Dror, the senior Intelligence Branch [IB] officer [who briefed the Knesset committee yesterday], are clear and well known. Yet, when the political stands of an intelligence man are revealed in his assessments, it is a failure on his part, which is a shame," a senior IB source said last night.

According to the source, Gen. 'Ami-Dror's assessments regarding al-Asad's credibility and adherence to agreements are not based on intelligence material available to him nor on open-source information regarding al-Asad's adherence to agreements such as the disengagement agreements signed after the Yom Kippur War.

The source further said that it is important to note that the head of the IB Research Department may evaluate the intelligence state of affairs and express it independently of the opinion of IB chief, Major General Uri Sagi, who holds just the opposite view.

"'Ami-Dror's opinion on Syria has been well known for some time. It can be said to his credit that he never feared expressing it in major forums." The senior IB source added that "autonomy in presenting a national intelligence evaluation, to which the head of the Research Department is entitled, has been a strong point with the IB for years. There is total freedom of opinion, which can serve as a buffer against mistakes." The source noted that 'Ami-Dror's problem is that "he cannot prove what he says."

[A report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam and Yehuda Tzur on the IB officer's briefing to the Knesset on the same page of the same 'AL HAMISHMAR issue adds that "the senior officer further claimed that there are no more Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men in custody in Gaza. They were all released shortly after their arrest."

[A similar report by Tal Shahaf on page 7 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 9 November adds: "In reaction to the report, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that al-Asad's record indicates that he has not been credible and failed to honor agreements time and again. 'The attempt to portray al-Asad as a man of honor who keeps his word is ridiculous. What is really worrying is the attempt by the political echelons to ignore and even twist the recommendations by the IB professional level.'

["Opposition and coalition members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee expressed rage over leaks from their sessions. They expressed the fear that the committee will cease serving as an instrument for reliable intelligence updates.

["Senior security sources last night expressed anger at the leaks from the committee sessions. 'We have a duty to update the elected representatives of the people on an ongoing basis, but the leaks simply cause damage.'"]

Rabin: Syria Has Upheld All Agreements

TA0811191494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900
GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected statements made by a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch officer to the effect that Syrian President al-Asad cannot be trusted to keep agreements he has signed. The intelligence officer was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and his remarks were leaked to the media.

In reaction, the prime minister said that since the Yom Kippur War Syria has upheld all agreements. Rabin told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that since 1974 no terrorist attacks have been launched against the Golan Heights from Syrian territory.

Peres Predicts Ties With 'Another Arab State'

TA0811185694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman today added his signature to the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived at the presidential residence with the documents and asked the president to sign them after learning that the president's signature was legally required.

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Foreign Minister Peres later said that diplomatic relations would be established with another Arab country before the end of 1994. Sources in Jerusalem expressed the assessment that Peres was referring to the emirate of Qatar.

Sarid: Rabin-'Arafat Meeting 'Best' Ever

TA0811201094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Studio interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by anchorman Hayim Yavin and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Minister Yosi Sarid, did Israel make some concessions to Yasir 'Arafat or has there been a general change in policy with regard to the implementation of the Oslo agreement?

[Sarid] I do not think these were concessions. This is Israel's policy as decided by the government. In my opinion, today's meeting was of unprecedented significance. I have attended almost all the meetings with the Palestinians, and I can tell you that this was the best and most important meeting ever. Forget about the bad meetings that we all know about. In the past, even good meetings were characterized by a pleasant atmosphere without any discussion of substantive issues or else substantive issues were discussed but the participants were in a bad mood. Today's meeting was positive from both aspects, and I think that, with regard to the substantive issues, both parties are wholeheartedly entering the next stage. The initial stage of Gaza-Jericho First has been concluded, and we are now entering the second stage which, I would say, is very important and perhaps even crucial. This stage comprises a whole package of issues: elections, redeployment, an examination of the legal situation, security arrangements, and the transfer of additional authorities, in addition to the five spheres already agreed upon. I would like, however, to voice one qualification: Although we are talking about one comprehensive package, it does not mean that everything will be implemented at once—that was also stressed by the prime minister at today's meeting. It is quite possible that in the course of the discussions we will see that the specific issues on which agreement has already been reached can be implemented earlier—with the agreement of both parties. Let us take the elections, for example: If we decide that the issue is completely wrapped up and finalized, we can immediately proceed to implement it.

[Yavin] But Ehud Ya'ari just said that it was agreed today that the elections will be put off until the end of this process.

[Sarid] Clearly, Ehud Ya'ari is right. Someone asked me today whether I thought that elections could be held in 1994—of course not. They will take place in 1995 but not necessarily in the latter part of that year. I feel that this is a reasonable assessment.

[Yavin] Then what can be implemented at once?

[Sarid] What can be implemented at once? Exactly one week from today—and this does not fall under the definition of concessions or goodwill gestures—we will turn over responsibility for two very important fields. Within the framework of early empowerment, we are transferring authority for tourism and welfare. At the end of the month we are transferring authority for health and direct taxation. This is in addition to the field of education, which has already been handed over to the Palestinians. Taken together, all this gives a whole picture, and the Palestinians are gradually taking charge for their own lives. This is the government's policy, and we are very satisfied with this development.

[Ya'ari] Minister Sarid, the West Bank—as opposed to the Gaza Strip—has a greater concentration of Jewish settlements and far more complicated security problems. Does the government today have a strategy or comprehensive plan with regard to this issue?

[Sarid] First of all, we have already learned the lessons of the Gaza Strip. You are familiar with the map and its different colored zones, and you know that the lessons of the Gaza model can be implemented in the West Bank. Clearly, when talking about redeployment or actually the preredeployment [last word in English], there are areas where it is easier and constitutes no problem, while there are locations in which it is more difficult. We, however, will implement it in accordance with the Oslo Agreement, which enables the State of Israel to guarantee the security of settlements, settlers, Israelis, traffic axes, and military locations [last two words in English].

[Yavin] Sir, with regard to the security issue, I would like to ask you in conclusion to tell us—without revealing any security secrets—whether Israelis can now sleep a little bit more peacefully?

[Sarid] Look, both parties realize that, unless a much more determined war is waged against terrorism, it will become the most dangerous threat to the continuation of the negotiations. This is something that the Palestinian side must especially understand, and I am not making threats or issuing ultimatums; it is self-evident. When the situation is calmer, Israel can be more accommodating. When the situation is tense, Israel has far less flexibility. The Palestinians are keenly aware of this even without getting into the details of today's meeting.

[Yavin] Thank you very much, Minister Sarid.

Official Promises 'Greater Civil Powers' for 'Arafat

NC0811114694 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 8 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will agree Tuesday [8 November] during a meeting with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to speed up negotiations on the next stages of autonomy, officials said.

Rabin had until now rejected Palestinian demands to hold parallel talks on elections, a military redeployment and the devolution of power on the West Bank.

The officials said Israel would offer to set up three committees to negotiate the issues in Cairo. The negotiations were expected to resume later this week.

The U-turn came during consultations in Tel Aviv on Monday evening between Rabin, senior army officers and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who has long urged Israel to accelerate the talks.

"We think we have to help 'Arafat, particularly by giving him greater civil powers," Environment Minister Yosi Sarid told AFP.

Since autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, on the West Bank only responsibility for education has so far been handed over to the Palestinians.

Israel has held up devolving power for health, taxation, social welfare and tourism until the Palestinian Authority has money to run the departments now under army control.

"Progress in extending autonomy depends largely on how the Authority tackles terrorism," Sarid said. "We do not expect the autonomous authority to record 100 percent success but we do want 100 percent effort.

"Security has to be ensured for Israelis after the army withdraws from densely-populated Palestinian areas on the West Bank," Sarid added.

The redeployment is scheduled to take place by the eve of elections to an autonomy council.

The vote was due to be held on July 13 under the 1993 Declaration of Principles for self-rule, but has been put off until next year as arguments rage on about the size and power of the council and the voting system.

Foreign Consuls Assemble at Orient House

TA0811123794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some of the foreign consuls in East Jerusalem met this morning at Orient House with the Palestinian official in charge of protocol, Rami Tahbub. They then left to tour Nablus and meet members of the local chamber of commerce.

A spokesman at Orient House said the building was being used to coordinate the activities of all foreign officials in the territories.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 8 November adds that Police Minister Moshe Shahal said today "that the Israel Police has no legal authority to prevent foreign diplomats and government members from entering the Orient House compound in East Jerusalem."]

Shahal Launches New Police District for West Bank

TA0811122694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jerusalem this morning, a new police district to control the Judea and Samaria areas was launched at a ceremony attended by Police Minister Moshe Shahal. In this interview with Amy Rhodes, Shahal explains the special responsibilities of the new force:

[Begin recording] [Shahal] This district is going to deal with the problems that he will face, the need to coordinate between at least another two entities within the area: the Palestinian entity and the Palestinian Authority; in the future with the Palestinian police force that will be in the West Bank and Gaza. And that in dealing with legal problems, daily problems, there are at least two legal systems that this district has to deal with: with Israeli citizens according to the Israeli law; with others according to the military law. So this is a different district. The need to form this district was entirely different from the other five.

[Rhodes] What do you say to peoples' claims that the police should not be handling this, that it should remain in the hands solely of the army?

[Shahal] It is not a question of what the people are saying. I think that we have to face realities. First of all, there is an agreement, the Oslo DOP [Declaration of Principles], and the army will be redeployed to new locations. There is a need to have to deal with problems that entirely concern civilians. Public order is not a military problem, and there will be a Palestinian police force. Who is going to coordinate the day-to-day problems? Who is going to have security on the highways? If there will be a Palestinian police force, I think that the police are better qualified to deal with all these problems. [end recording]

IDF Prepares Redeployment Plans for West Bank

TA0911100694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past several weeks discussions have been held in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on the army's redeployment in the West Bank and the evacuation of its troops from the big cities there, in preparation for elections in the territories. The discussions on the plans called Operation Rainbow B are still in their initial stages and Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, will have the final say on the matter. At the same time, two "contingency" plans have been prepared.

The first plan speaks of a "quick operational redeployment," speaking of a withdrawal from the large urban centers within three months, and a redeployment around

them and along the main roads. The urban centers in question are Nabulus, Ramallah, Janin, and perhaps even Hebron. According to the second plan, the redeployment will last nine months, and will be carried out in stages.

A senior officer told HA'ARETZ last night that "the IDF can handle either of the plans. As far as we are concerned, we will do whatever we are told by the political echelons. We can carry out an immediate redeployment." The IDF has begun procuring the means for a quick redeployment such as, among other things, new observation towers, prefabricated construction, fences, and radio equipment. No real discussion has so far been held regarding Hebron, which is the Arab city with the largest Jewish concentration in the West Bank. The officer estimated that a separate discussion will be held on this issue.

Unlike in Operation Rainbow A, the IDF withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, this time there is no intention of placing IDF units inside or in the vicinity of Jewish settlements. The units will be moved to existing army bases or to bases built for this purpose.

The estimated cost of the IDF redeployment in the West Bank has not yet been determined. At the same time, senior officers estimate that the cost would be double that of the IDF withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho—more than 500 million shekels. One of the officers said that "there is no argument about the IDF remaining in control of the main routes outside the cities."

According to him, "the main routes are the heart of the region that will provide security for the Jewish settlers. IDF units will be in control of the routes, and perhaps there would be a form of joint patrols with the Palestinians on some of the routes." According to him, the main problem that should be addressed is the prevention of friction between settlers and Palestinians on the roads. He said that there is a need to reach an understanding that some of the roads will be designated for the Arabs and others for the Jews. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Kill Palestinian Man in Ramallah

TA0811163294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian in Ramallah. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the man was hit when soldiers opened fire at stone throwers. He was taken to a local hospital where he later died.

Islamic Leader Calls for Antiterror Convention

TA0911082194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish called for a convention that would remove civilians from the cycle of terrorism in the entire

Middle East. The remarks were made in the first meeting of its kind held in Tel Aviv with participants from the Israeli Islamic Movement and members of the peace bloc. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports:

[Peleg] In his first public meeting with Jewish citizens in Tel Aviv, Shaykh Darwish of Kafr Qasim, a leader of the Islamic Movement, highlighted the spiritual partnership between the principles of Islam and Judaism. What infuriates me as a religious person, he said, is that instead of religion immediately stopping violence between people, by distorting God's words various speakers throw gas on the fire. Quoting in Hebrew and Arabic from the Koran and the 10 Commandments, he reminded his audience of the ban on killing. The Prophet Muhammad, like Moses, in their struggle for freedom, preferred the risks involved in liberty to the relative security of slavery. It is the right of the weak to rise up against the strong, but even when the aim is justified, he says, quoting from the sources, a just and humane means has to be found. At this point, he denounced the attack on the Dizengoff bus and the abduction of the late Nahshon Waxman.

[Begin Darwish recording] Neither you nor I are prepared to accept the justification of the path taken by those struggling for their freedom when we see people being blown up. To my regret, the principle of kidnapping is being implemented or being used by governments and movements. A convention must be signed in the Middle East by the movements and the governments to remove the civilian population from the cycle of violence. [end recording]

Shaykh Darwish warned against peace accords which remind us of the Treaty of Versailles which humiliated the Germans and lead to the Nazi beast. For 20 years, the PLO sat on the tree top and demanded the liberation of all of Palestine by force of arms, until it went to Madrid and the Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the opening position of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is more promising.

[Begin Darwish recording] There is talk now about a just peace, and I myself heard talk about a readiness to talk with the State of Israel. [end recording]

Darwish concludes with the hope that a leader will be found in the region who does not fear for his political future, a sort of Charles de Gaulle of the 1990's, who instead fighting a bitter war to the end, will find a way for comprehensive negotiations with all the political movements in the region.

Bank Governor Warns Of 'Overheating' Economy

MS0811135894 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 8 Nov 94 p 5

[Report on interview with Jacob Frenkel, Bank of Israel Governor, by Julian Ozanne; place and date not given: "Israeli Economy Shows Overheating Signs"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's economy is growing faster than expected but is showing signs of over-heating with rising inflation, high wage agreements in the public sector and an increase in private consumption.

Mr Jacob Frenkel, Bank of Israel governor, warned in an interview yesterday that the government faced a serious policy challenge in 1995 to ensure growth would be sustainable. Without a reduction in labour costs, government expenditure and the public sector wage bill, high medium-term growth of 5 per cent a year could be in jeopardy.

"I think we have just the right conditions to justify a vigorous effort to stabilise," he said. "Our economy is growing quickly, there are clear signs of over-heating reflected both in the rapid rise of consumption and in a growing current account deficit. Restrictive macro-economic policies are warranted on the fiscal and monetary front."

Mr Frenkel said the economy would grow 6.7 per cent this year, well above the forecast of 5.3 per cent and last year's 3.4 per cent. The growth he said was of a "healthy variety", driven principally by private sector activity, expected to grow 7.7 per cent, and a 16.3 per cent increase in non-housing investment.

However a significant part of 1994 economic growth reflects a 10 per cent increase in private consumption fuelled by civilian imports, which will increase by 13 per cent. The trade deficit for 1994 is expected to widen from \$6bn (3.6bn pounds) to \$8.3bn, causing the current account deficit to grow from \$1.4bn to \$3bn.

"If you ask me, based on these figures, whether economic growth is sustainable the answer is no because private sector consumption has grown at a rate which exceeds the rate of income growth," Mr Frenkel said.

Private consumption in 1994 has been stimulated by growing perceptions of economic growth, the rapid fall in unemployment this year from 10 per cent to 7.2 per cent and public sector wage increases of 10 per cent in real terms.

Mr Frenkel said the real danger was the spill-over of public sector wage rises into the private sector. "If this happens it will affect profitability and might have adverse consequences for investment and growth and will also make the fight against inflation so much more difficult."

Economists at the central bank are urging the government to reduce private sector labour costs, slash its wage

bill—which has risen 6 per cent this year—and curb expenditure to ensure a continuing decrease of the budget deficit, which is expected to fall to 2 per cent of gross domestic product this year.

The bank is advocating a 3 per cent cut in the public workforce, which has grown 5.8 per cent this year from 575,500 to 608,600 and says this could be achieved by a hiring freeze.

Government action on public expenditure will be critical to fighting inflation, now at 14 per cent. While the central bank has increased interest rates 6.5 percentage points since last year, many economists believe it should have acted faster. Mr Ptachia Bar-Shavit [as published], economist at Bank Hapoalim, said the central bank mistook the inflation trend in the summer of 1993, which showed a seasonal reduction, and reacted slowly.

However, the central bank had to fight for tight monetary policy against criticism from the finance ministry and manufacturers. It also says the main contributor to inflation was housing costs, which are expected to rise 30 per cent this year. Government measures such as increased sale of public land and re-designating land uses from agriculture to housing have yet to be effective.

Mr Bar-Shavit said the government had not done enough to solve the housing crisis and said the government should introduce a buy-back policy to ensure builders operated at full capacity. He said housing costs would only come down significantly when builders produced 50,000 new units a year instead of the less than 40,000 units started this year.

The bank, however, says interest rate rises have contained the acceleration of inflation. Together with the government, it has decided on an inflation target of 8-11 per cent for 1995.

"Up to now we have contained the acceleration and now we are in the phase of a gradual reduction towards the inflation target," said Mr Frenkel.

Economists say achievements of 1994 should not be underrated. Mr Bar-Shavit said per capita income would grow 4.4 per cent, greater than the OECD industrialised countries. Reduction in unemployment, given continuing absorption of about 70,000 new immigrants annually, was also an impressive achievement he said.

Export growth of 8 per cent this year partly reflects benefits from the Middle East peace process. Exports of goods to Asia, excluding Japan, are set to rise 25-30 per cent this year from \$1.7bn in 1993.

'Aziz Remarks on Israel Said 'Positive Development'

JN0811135794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8 Nov 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Peace is For All"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Notwithstanding Israel's lukewarm reception to Iraq's declaration that it no longer regards itself as a "confrontation state" with the Jewish state, the recent pronouncement of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz is indeed a very positive development and should be welcomed by all parties to the peace process. The importance of Baghdad's recent move in the direction of ending the state of war with Israel has to be gauged and seen in the context of regional peace. Without Iraq joining the political effort, there will always be serious gaps in the circle of peace that is increasingly gaining momentum in the area. With Jordan and the PLO now committed to renouncing war as an option to settle their differences with Israel, and Syria and Lebanon remaining not too far behind in signing and ratifying peace treaties with the Jewish state, there is no question that Iraq's acceptance of the peace process is indispensable to its completion. The Casablanca conference last week envisaged the creation of the state of the Middle East and North Africa but rather the entire community of states in these two regions of the world. That is why the cultivation of peaceful relations between Iraq and Israel is so vital and necessary.

We may understand Israel's hangups in dealing with Iraq which stem essentially from the refusal of the U.S. and its principal allies to deal with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'un Peres made this stance loud and clear when he responded to 'Aziz offer of an olive branch by saying Sunday that "Israel's enemy is not Iraq as a state or people." Peres went on to add that his country's problem was with Saddam Husayn. This is essentially the identical position of Washington, which refuses all modes of accommodation with the current regime in Baghdad no matter how far it goes to implement the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis in 1991. No wonder Israel's secret contacts with Baghdad last summer had to be suspended apparently when news leaked out that some Israeli ministers, notably Iraqi-born Minister of Police Moshe Shahal and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, were conducting some discrete contacts with Baghdad in a bid to nudge it closer to the peace process. We believe that Iraq's offer of peace should be encouraged rather than rejected out of hand. The issue and cause of peace in the region transcends personalities. Peace in the Middle East is a phenomenon affecting states' behaviour in the future and no state actions in the past. All states in the region which are now affixing their seals of approval on one peace treaty after the other had in the past engaged in the most hostile activities against one another. Peace calls for looking

forward and not backward. That is why we support Baghdad's change of heart and its willingness to be part of a new Middle East.

Iraq's Decision To End War With Israel Defended

JN0911111094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
9 Nov 94 p 2

["Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Iraq's Step Is Wise and in Its Place"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one, whether the Palestinian brothers, the Arabs, or for that matter anyone else in the world has the right to blame, admonish, or accuse Iraq of having abandoned the Palestinian cause or the Palestinian people's rights.

Like Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the other Arab countries with the exception of Egypt, perhaps, Iraq was taken by surprise by the Oslo agreement, followed by the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Davos agreement, and then by the Cairo agreements between the PLO which is recognized on the Arab, Islamic, and international level as the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative, and Israel.

Like Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the other Arab countries, Iraq was not consulted by the Palestinian leaders in spite of the momentous sacrifices Iraq has offered over the many years of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

From this premise, no one in the world has the right to blame Iraq for terminating a war in which it volunteered to be a direct party against Israel from the beginning, and for ending its participation in a conflict that used to be called the Arab-Israeli conflict but which through a PLO decision has become a Palestinian-Israeli conflict which ended in the Oslo and the Gaza-Jericho agreements.

That's why there is no reason to keep Iraq alone in a state of war with Israel when brothers and friends abandoned it and left it to succumb under the burden of an unjust Arab, Islamic, and international siege.

Therefore, the recent Iraqi step is in its place and, judged by all standards, is a wise decision.

The fraternal Iraqi people, the Jordanian people, and all the people in the region have a right to enjoy peace, security, and stability after suffering for years from the tribulations of wars and disputes in which they lost many of their heroic soldiers and sons and wasted a sizable part of their resources and assets. They also lost many opportunities for construction, development, and progress and were deprived of their public liberties and democratic options.

Now that the state of war between Iraq and Israel has been proclaimed, the UN Security Council and the UN Security Council permanent members, particularly the United States should work expeditiously to lift the unjust siege that is imposed on the Iraqi people, and to end the

extermination of its children, elderly, and women caused by the scarcity of food and medicines and the outrageous rise in prices.

Lifting the siege from Iraq should be one of the most prominent requirements of peace and one of its prominent and positive results.

Paper Welcomes Iraq's 'Recognition' of Kuwait

JN0911113494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
9 Nov 94 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "The Iraqi Step Toward Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian foreign minister's announcement that his country has received an official Iraqi letter publicly recognizing the territorial integrity and borders of the State of Kuwait is an extremely important development in the course of the Gulf crisis that erupted four years ago and kept threatening the region with explosion, tension, and conflict.

Based on this, we believe that this new Iraqi stand toward Kuwait should be welcomed not only because it fulfills what remains of the many Security Council resolutions over the conflict, but also because it invalidates a pretext that was constantly and persistently used to perpetuate the unjust embargo against the people of Iraq.

This development, which deserves to be welcomed by all Arab brethren, including Kuwaitis, signals the end of much suffering brought about by that crisis. We can also say that it is the most serious Iraqi attempt to close a file which could not have been closed had it not been for such a recognition.

It is important for Kuwait to feel secure about the future and for the Kuwaitis to be assured that no new threats will be posed to them. At the same time, Iraq should get rid of the confrontation with the western powers that are dominating today's world and be able to lift the long-standing starvation blockade, the like of which can only be found in the Middle Ages.

In light of this, we very positively view this wise, courageous, and insightful Iraqi stand. We believe it is a conclusive step toward removing one of the most serious obstacles impeding the restoration of Arab cohesion and the reshaping of the Arab stand in accordance with the requirements of this decisive stage in the nation's history.

What remains to be said is that our brethren in Kuwait should deal with such an Iraqi stand with all the positiveness it deserves in order to prevent the aggravation of the Iraqi suffering and facilitate Iraq's return to the international community, especially since we believe that such desired Kuwaiti positiveness will strip the western states of any possible pretext to perpetuate the embargo imposed on the fraternal Arab people of Iraq.

More Deputies Speak in House Debate on Treaty

JN0711115894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
7 Nov 94 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following are summaries of speeches made Saturday [5 November] and Sunday by deputies at the Lower House of Parliament during debate of the peace treaty signed with Israel on 26 Oct.

Ahmad al-Qudah ('Ajlun)

Peace was not the choice of Jordan alone but an option decided by the Arab and Islamic countries, said Mr. al-Qudah. Noting that Egypt concluded a peace treaty and the Palestinians had gone their own way, Mr. al-Qudah said Jordan had suffered a great deal from aggression and in seeking peace it had sought coordination with the other Arab parties.

He said Jordan had no alternative to defending its rights but to follow the path of peace and ensure its sovereignty over its territory and water resources.

The deputy said that it was true that the treaty was something that "shook our concepts and our values but it is the reality that we have to deal with and we have to strive towards a brighter future."

Sulayman al-Sa'd (Jarash) (Islamist)

Voicing opposition to the treaty, Mr. Sa'd asserted that the treaty had dangerous implications and would have serious consequences on Jordan.

The treaty forces Jordan to trust the Jews but our Koran teaches us that the Jews are never to be trusted," said Mr. Sa'd.

He charged that the treaty "aims to provide" protection to Israel and demands normal relations with the enemy which is resented by the people and is demanding that the Jordanians end the state of belligerency with the Jewish state, something which is detrimental to the nation." The treaty, he added, will cause deep rifts within the Arab ranks and destroy all hopes for the Islamic Nation to attain its rights in the holy places.

Tujan Faysal (Amman)

What is the point of discussing the treaty when the government has already taken the decision and concluded the treaty, Ms. Faysal said.

The government has abused its authority to serve its own interest, charged the deputy, who accused the official information media of claiming that the treaty enjoys the support of 100 per cent of the people. Why then is security tightened everywhere if this is so?" she asked.

"While the treaty says that we have regained full sovereignty over all our lands, we can see that a Jewish settlement is in place on our territory with Jewish settlers free to come and go," she said.

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'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr (Amman) (Islamist)

Mr. Jabr said Jordan had completely abandoned Arab ranks in the Middle East conflict by signing the treaty with Israel, securing only Israeli and American guarantees to keep it as an independent political entity in the region.

"This will cause a new crack in the Arab-Islamic wall and would enable the Zionist entity to go through it to penetrate the region easily, thus making Jordan a gate for the great Zionist project in the region," Mr. Jabr said.

This will weaken the Arab parties negotiating with Israel, especially the Syrians and the Palestinians, he said.

The Jews, he warned, "are influential in the world and are directing the resolutions of international legitimacy as the world countries are competing to win their favour."

He voiced his fear about provisions in the treaty which might be used to target the Islamists and blamed the government for not including U.N. Security Council Resolution 194 on the repatriation of refugees in the treaty.

'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur (Irbid) (Islamist)

Mr. al-'Ukur, who spoke also on behalf of his IAF colleague Talal 'Ubaydat, said the treaty failed to regain Jordan's full rights to the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers water and said he hoped that the government did not believe that this treaty has terminated "the project of the substitute homeland."

Mr. al-'Ukur said Israel was suffering from a demographic problem affecting its structure and nature as a racist country, specifying the problem as the existence of three million Palestinians on its land. "The Israeli leaders realise that their entity will never be stable unless it gets rid of this demographic threat," he added.

He said people will be disappointed by the full normalisation of relations with Israel, which is still occupying "our lands and shedding the blood of our sons."

He continued that it was not a shame for nations and peoples to be defeated, adding that this happened repeatedly in history. "It happened with Japan and Germany and other nations, but the shame here is not to call things by their names."

He said the coming generations will not be satisfied with the treaty and will continue their march towards regaining Jordan's full rights to water, land, holy places and resources.

Muhammad 'Uwaydah (al-Balqa') (Islamist)

Mr. 'Uwaydah objected to ending the state of enmity with Israel, arguing that the reasons for enmity still exist.

Saying the government had underlined that through delineating the borders with Israel it had secured Jordan's borders, he asked which side needs recognition of its borders, Jordan or Israel.

He charged that article eight of the treaty deals with the problem of refugees and displaced persons as a humanitarian problem rather than a political problem, and instead of tackling it, it was delayed to future stages.

He stressed that the Palestinian question, which is the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict, was not resolved by the treaty, and underlined that the Palestinian problem is the cause of all Arabs and Muslims, and the Palestinians are only spearheading Arab and Muslim efforts to liberate their occupied lands.

Jamil al-Hushush (al-Karak)

Mr. al-Hushush of the Progress and Justice Party voiced support for the treaty, saying it serves the national interests of Jordan.

The treaty, Mr. al-Hushush said, gives back to Jordan its rights to its land and water and cancels the "greater Israel project" which was adopted by the Zionist movement since its establishment.

"We support the treaty and bless His Majesty King Husayn's steps over these major national achievements and we highly value the efforts of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan in this regard," he said.

Khalil Haddadin (Amman)

Mr. Haddadin said, Arab policies had failed over a period of half a century in dealing with the Arab-Zionist conflict and that as the Arab countries attended the Madrid conference in 1991 they lacked any degree of coordination.

He said the Jordanian people were surprised by the Palestine Liberation Organisation signing of the Oslo agreement with the Israelis and the declaration of principles which produced the Gaza-Jericho first scheme.

"This way the sole representative of the Palestinian people have relinquished its demand to liberate Palestine from the (Mediterranean) Sea to (Jordan) River," he said.

He argued that the treaty contradicts article one of the Jordanian Constitution when it was made binding in case of its contradiction with any Arab agreements or commitments as if the Jordanian people are no more part of the Arab Nation.

Nadir Abu-al-Sha'r (Irbid)

Jordan adopted the decision to sign the peace treaty with Israel only after the Palestinians had taken steps to establish their authority on Palestinian land, said Mr. Abu-al-Sha'r.

"With this treaty Jordan has obviously regained its land and water rights and ensured for itself the aspired security and stability which are required for economic prosperity," he said.

The current world circumstances and the situation in the Middle East as well as the disarray in Arab ranks have no doubt speeded up the process of peace, leading to the signing of the treaty with Israel," he said. "Jordan would no doubt work hard to help the other parties attain peace and security and ensure the return of all the occupied Arab lands so that a comprehensive peace can be established in this region."

Mustafa Shunaykat (al-Balqa')

Voicing opposition to the peace treaty, Mr. Shunaykat said that coming in the wake of three years of negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis the treaty does not secure the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. "This treaty, which does not meet the requirements of a just and durable peace, has come about as a result of the success of the American-Israeli alliance in ensuring divisions in Arab ranks, the deputy said.

"It is a dangerous step that would harm Jordan's national sovereignty and the country's future," Mr. Shunaykat said. "We are only demanding the implementation of U.N. resolutions something which has not happened so far. Therefore reaching a peace treaty at this juncture means surrender to Israel."

"We reject the peace treaty with Israel" he added "because we consider it as a show of disregard to the U.N. resolutions and the legitimate rights of the Arab people."

'Ali al-Shatti (al-Balqa')

Voicing his support for the peace treaty, Mr. al-Shatti said no one should demand from Jordan to remain waiting alone for the outcome of the Israeli negotiations on other tracks.

The peace treaty entails all that Jordan has been seeking and for which Jordanians have offered sacrifices, he said. Jordan, he added, had always supported a comprehensive peace on all tracks but the Kingdom cannot just wait indefinitely endangering its national interests, he said.

Salih Irshaydat (Irbid)

Mr. Irshaydat said that as a Jordanian of Palestinian origin he could not recognise Israel's occupation of Palestine.

"My village where I was born and where my relatives live is under occupation and this applies to all the displaced Palestinians who have been suffering from displacement and living in camps," Mr. Irshaydat said.

"This is not a treaty that ends the state of war between two nations but it rather came as a result of international

and Arab circumstances and I hope that the Jordanian leadership would continue to seek the rights of the Palestinian people," he noted.

Mr. Irshaydat said "I appeal to His Majesty King Husayn to help the Palestinian refugees who continue to suffer from occupation and displacement."

'Abdallah al-'Akayilah (Islamist) (al-Tafilah)

Criticising the peace treaty, Mr. al-'Akayilah said that Israel had sought to exclude Jerusalem from it and refer it to the final stage of negotiations with the Palestinians. But the Jews are insisting that Jerusalem is their eternal and united capital, he noted.

"Since the early days of this century the Jews have sought to take the conflict out of its pan-Arab and Islamic context dealing with each Arab state separately."

No one would expect Jordan to liberate the whole of Palestine on its own but it should also be said that our struggle with the Jews had never been over a 300 kilometres of land or 50 to 235 million cubic metres of water, said Mr. al-'Akayilah. He declared his opposition to the treaty.

'Abd-al-Majid 'Azzam (Ajlun)

Voicing support for the treaty, Mr. 'Azzam said that the Kingdom had the right like all the other Arab states to turn its attention to its own interests and the interests of its people.

"Concluding the treaty does not mean that Jordan will turn its back on the Arab and Islamic nations," he said. "Jordan will remain committed to pan-Arab causes."

"Jordan has been steadfast and had never interfered in other Arab countries affairs and has paid dearly following the Gulf crisis for adopting pan-Arab policies," Mr. 'Azzam said.

Addressing the opposition, he said that he would support the opposition if it come up with alternative proposals for a formula that would end poverty and the no-war no-peace situation and the lack of security and stability in the region.

Khalid 'Abd-al-Nabi al-'Ajarimah

"Our negotiators have succeeded in regaining every inch of Jordan's lost territory and the peace treaty came to crown their efforts," Mr. al-'Ajarimah said.

"Following the example of the Palestinians we have reached agreement with Israel to ensure stability for the Jordanian people," he said. He noted that Jordan is a country with meagre resources and limited potentials depending on assistance from Arab states which have turned their backs on the Kingdom for the past four years.

"Furthermore, the return to Jordan of more than 350,000 people from Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf war

has made matters worse for Jordan and turned Jordanians bitter about such treatment from the other countries," Mr. al-'Ajarimah said.

Farah al-Rabadi (Ajlun)

"The treaty we are discussing today is not a novelty for us because it has been negotiated over the past three years," Mr. al-Rabadi said.

"The majority of the Jordanian people rally behind their leadership and accept peace and support the King's endeavours in his efforts," he said.

Criticising those who opposed peace negotiations from the start, Mr. al-Rabadi said that "had we delayed the treaty further we could have needed a miracle to save us from the complexities."

Jordan has realised that the time has come to direct its attention towards its own interests after having devoted much of its past efforts towards serving others, he added.

Bassam Haddadin (al-Zarqa')

Voicing one's opinion on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is a great responsibility, Mr. Haddadin opened. Issues concerning the homeland do not tolerate overbidding or compromises since "all of us, government and opposition, are united for the good of the homeland," he said.

"To be able to do that we must hear each other well and find the best means to ensure interaction of all opinions, and participation in the national decisionmaking process."

Mr. Haddadin accused the government of giving a deaf ear to opposition, hiding information from it and concealing its intentions and in general dealing with the opposition in a hostile manner.

"Whenever progress was made in the negotiation process, the government had tightened its grip on the opposition and limited participation in the decision-making process to the smallest circles and sometimes to few individuals," he said.

Mr. Haddadin said the government did not only absent the opposition from taking part in decisionmaking, but also absented its own supporters, whether at the Lower House or in political parties.

"I do not exaggerate if I say that ministers were also the last to know," Mr. Haddadin charged. That government behaviour leads to suspicion, he said.

He held a comparison with the other party to the treaty, Israel, noting that he had not heard about any detention or banning of marches or sit-ins. There were continuous dialogues on the other side (Israel) between the government and the opposition, he said adding that the government could have involved the opposition in the negotiations. "Had it done so we would have been able to ensure better terms."

Mr. Haddadin said the Jordanian opposition did not agree to the treaty in its present form, and calls on the government to renegotiate to bridge the gaps referred to. He said the government of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali which signed the treaty should resign or be made to resign, because it did not initiate dialogue with the constitutional and political institutions in the country before signing it. Mr. Haddadin called for a public referendum on the treaty.

Dayfallah al-Mumani (Ajlun) (Islamist)

"Any peace treaty between the Jews and any Arab state is considered a difficult option, but for Jordan it is the hardest because Jordan has never worked for itself in isolation of other Arab and Islamic countries," Mr. al-Mumani said.

He said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has encouraged some Arab leaders to visit Israel. He warned that Jews will not adopt Arab great values even if they live amongst us for decades. He said that Jews were masters of terrorism and extremism, although they are accusing others of being terrorists and extremists.

Jamal al-Khurrayshah (Central Bedouins)

"It is the duty of our Parliament to care for Jordan's interests, affording them priority over all others," Mr. al-Khurrayshah said.

"The people of Jordan have elected us to serve them honestly and protect their interests and, therefore, we have a duty to support the peace treaty which ensures security and the rights of the Jordanian people."

Noting that the Palestinians "went ahead before us and negotiated their rights," he said Jordan could not wait and see its rights lost and leave matters for others to plan its future.

"After studying this treaty we can only declare our support for it since it regains our rights," he concluded.

Ahmad al-Kawfahi (Irbid)

Accusing the government of disengaging Jordan from the Arab and Islamic nation through this treaty, Mr. al-Kawfahi said that one should take lessons from the past and remember that the Jews never respected agreements with any party and, therefore, the treaty would not help Jordan regain anything.

"This treaty is a sell out of Palestine, Jerusalem and the Arab and Islamic nations' rights," said al-Kawfahi expressing his rejection of the treaty.

"This treaty is bound to help the Jewish state achieve the so-called greater Israel at the expense of the Arab Nation," he charged.

Criticising the Jordanian negotiators Mr. al-Kawfahi said that they excelled in their theatrical performance and in misleading the media, resorting to deception.

Levelling criticism on the government, the deputy said that the government had been accusing the opposition of being against the regime but deep down it realises that this was not the case. "The opposition has a constitutional right to express its views regarding all issues and has the right to declare its views openly to protect public interest," he added.

Hamam Sa'id (Amman)

Mr. Sa'id said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, similar to the Oslo accord, Washington meetings and the Cairo agreement, was surprising to the people.

"It has been imposed by force, by martial law, by the confiscation of freedoms and the stifling of people's voices."

"Had it been a people's choice, people would have their say on it," he said.

He said such agreements have become the norm since the 1970's.

"They have been written in the books, with all the industrial, agricultural and tourist projects they envisage."

Dr. Sa'id said the first chapter of the Zionist project had ended by the occupation of Palestine by force, and the second chapter will be completed by peace.

He stressed that Jordan and Palestine form one geographic and demographic entity and that most of the tribes in Jordan have their roots in Palestine and most of the tribes in Palestine have their roots in Jordan.

He criticised the treaty for "failing to address the issue of the refugees and the displaced persons."

Jordan, he said is committed by virtue of its constitution to the West Bankers who are an inseparable part of Jordan in good times and in bad times. Jordan is also committed to the cause of the refugees and displaced persons who constitute more than half of the Jordanian people, he said.

The Palestinian concern is Jordan's concern, and the dislocation of Palestinians from this body is tantamount to the removal of a man's heart or lung, he said.

He warned of Jewish immigration to Palestine, saying that Jews have plans to send four to five million Jewish immigrants to Palestine by the year 2000.

Dr. Sa'id wondered whether the Jordanian negotiators had addressed this problem properly.

He voiced his rejection of the treaty, not because he did not understand history, he said, but because the treaty included many problems which were left to consultation with the Jews.

Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn (Central Bedouins)

Dr. al-Zabn said he was not supporting the treaty because Jordan was acquiring something through the treaty that was not its own, but because it restores its usurped rights.

"Some colleagues say that this treaty has contradicted the Jordanian Constitution which bans any relinquishing of Jordanian land in their reference to severing ties (with the West Bank), but how can this be called relinquishing while there is a self-rule authority in the occupied territories with the blessing of the international community?" asked Dr. al-Zabn.

"How strange that we can forget the past! Before about 20 years, in 1974, when King Husayn addressed al-Rabat (Arab) summit, he said: 'And if the summit wants to exclude the legitimate representation with only the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and consequently end Jordan's direct role in political work and in demanding and negotiating despite its stand, rights, existence and sacrifices and all that it had offered for this (Palestinian) cause, Jordan will any way preserve its pan-Arab position on this cause and will work for its victory.'"

Dr. al-Zabn said that after this decision at the summit the PLO became the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. he said that [at the] time there were no demonstrations denouncing the decision and there were no politicians or intellectuals condemning it. But, he continued, "when Jordan, under its Hashemite leadership, and with its loyal people, have managed to regain its rights, it was surprised by demonstrations, articles, speeches, lectures and seminars."

"Based on that, I am with the treaty out of my conviction that the Arab-Israeli conflict has now taken its current national form. The treaty, in the national Jordanian context restores the Kingdom's legitimate water and land rights, and delineates its western borders," he concluded.

Mahmud al-Huwaymil (The Jordan Valley)

Mr. al-Huwaymil said that he supported the treaty and called on the Jordanian people to unify their ranks in preparation for the future stages.

He said that the treaty had several good aspects about it, including demarcating the Kingdom's western border and disallowing involuntary immigration.

"Everyone knows how much we have suffered because of the emigration to Jordan and how much the Jordanian people have shouldered and how much the Jordanian treasury has paid to offer services to immigrants and displaced people."

The treaty, he added, also "commits" European states and the U.S. to developing the region, restores Jordan's water rights, calls for fighting drugs and urges economic

development. Furthermore, the treaty opens the door for Jordanians to benefit in technological fields, he noted.

"The most positive aspect in the treaty is that His Majesty King Husayn has committed himself to all that was mentioned in it and we commit ourselves to what he committed himself," and Mr. al-Huwaymil.

Muhammad al-Dawudiyah (Al-Tawfilah Governorate) (for 'Awad Khulayfat, Ma'an, and 'Abd al-Razzaq Tubayshat, Irbid)

Mr. al-Dawudiyah said any negotiations means mutual concessions and mid-way meeting. "When discussing peace, we are not considering it as Constantinople conquest, nor as a sell out or treason, since any negotiations means mutual concessions and half-way meeting."

Mr. al-Dawudiyah reviewed the history of the Hashemites and their struggle and sacrifices in defence for Arab causes. He said His Majesty King Husayn has refused an offer to sign unilateral peace with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, although the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir advised him that time to do so.

Mr. al-Dawudiyah said the Madrid peace conference implied collective Arab agreement to unilateral solutions: A Syrian track, a Palestinian track, a Lebanese track and a Jordanian track. The Oslo accord was the culmination of a pan-Arab resolution adopted by the Arab summit in 1974. That resolution gave the Palestinians the full right to address their national interest through their independent decision and national sovereignty.

The Oslo accord was tantamount to a declaration of burying inter-Arab coordination which was a term with no meaning.

Therefore, it was incumbent on Jordan to fend off marginalisation and conspiracy with all its political, economic and demographic dimensions.

The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement was the result of all these previous developments, Mr. al-Dawudiyah said. Those who reject the treaty are doing so because they see that the splitting of Arab-Israeli conflict into tracks and bilateral agreements will minimise the gains they are expected to reap had they acted as one team negotiating in one track. This is true, he said.

The second argument of those rejecting the treaty is that Jordan and King Husayn could have dealt with a complete package and intertwined elements, and could have sustained the least losses and the greatest gains.

Mr. al-Dawudiyah said Jordan's hopes and dreams of liberation, return and unity had lost great and successive chances for peace.

"We could have been offered more had we grasped such opportunities." However, he said, Arab political thinkers had not grasped these opportunities, nor had

they embarked on any historical steps serving the interest of the nation because of their fear from such labels as traitors.

In the meantime the Zionist movement was forming its alliances, ensuring political, financial, military and scientific support, and was Judaizing the land and people, while we were announcing in public that we are going to dump Israel in the sea.

Mr. al-Dawudiyah said peace is a long-sought human goal, and is a great and strategic one. However, he added, what Jordan seeks is a sustainable, lasting, just and comprehensive peace.

Mr. al-Dawudiyah supported House's Foreign Affairs Committee recommendations and called for directing special attention to the issue of refugees and displaced persons in view of its importance for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Shakhanibah (Madabah)

Deputy al-Shakhanibah said that as he was following addresses by fellow deputies he detected in these addresses, whether for or against the treaty, a sense of care for the country.

"My kind colleagues," said Mr. al-Shakhanibah, "you are all keen on this homeland... Weren't you frightened by the concept of the substitute homeland? Weren't you frightened that solving the Palestinian problem would only be done in Jordan through the establishment of a Palestinian state in this country? Weren't you frightened by the fact that Jordan was included in the Balfour Declaration? Didn't you hear the Zionist song that says: 'The Jordan River has two banks, one for us and the other is also for us?' Weren't you frightened that Jordan was threatened with division and disappearance as an entity? Those were really serious sources of fear for me," he said.

Mr. al-Shakhanibah said his fears were reduced by the treaty. Despite the shortcomings in it, he said, the treaty still had lots of positive elements.

"No one can claim that it is a great victory but it was the best that could be achieved at these difficult times. I cannot deny that I was dreaming of the better, or at least of having Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and afterwards, including the land of Palestine and its capital Jerusalem, which is in the heart of each of us. How not when we were raised on these things?"

"My dear colleagues, this treaty was the best that we could get at these difficult circumstances..."

"I like to point out to two issues that were discussed by the members of the House's Foreign Relations Committee which debated the treaty:

"—Regarding the issue of Jordan's quitting all the previous agreements contravening this treaty, including the

Arab joint defence agreement, I say that the way I understood it, Jordan can use the help of any Arab forces at any time whether that was for self-defence or for attack and this treaty will no more be valid.

"—For those saying that Jordan got less than its share of water specified by the Johnston plan, I ask them how was the share of Palestine calculated? Or isn't it clear that Syria now getting from the al-Yarmuk river water 150 million cubic metres more than its share specified by the Johnston plan?

"I appeal to the government to regain al-Baqurah area owned by Jews and to convert it to a plantation and call on the government to make do without the water it is getting in the north temporarily...and for that Israel should stop using Jordanian wells in the Wadi al-'Arabah area."

Nazih al-'Ammarin (Al-Karak)

Mr. al-'Ammarin said Jordan was suffering from the no-war, no-peace situation, and because of its limited resources, the economic embargo, conspiracies targeting its security, insufficiency of water, stifling indebtedness and rising unemployment.

"I say to those who say 'alright, we realise how bad the status quo is, so let us leave matters for the coming generations,'" that I respect this view, but out of my faith in the interests of the country and the need to place these interests above all other personal considerations, I oppose this view for the following reasons:

"—Solving the problem can never be through avoiding it and through speeches, statements and slogans.

"—Delaying the problem simply means the continuation of the no-war, no-peace situation.

"—I remind you of the series of lost opportunities which characterised the emotional way the Arabs dealt with the Palestinian problem. We always regretted what we refused earlier.

"All of us remember the 1947 partition plan which was approved by the wise Jordanian leadership then, and which we rejected in accordance with the irresponsible emotional reaction... If we today refuse what we are offered, would we have anymore to decry and to regret?

"Despite all that was said about the treaty, we think that through this treaty we gained a lot of what we were demanding."

Mr. al-'Ammarin continued by saying that the treaty did not end the Arab-Israeli conflict, but has moved the Arabs to a more advanced and complicated form of conflict. "it has moved us from the unified (military) confrontation to a multi-front battle of economy, science, knowledge and loyalty. It is the multi-dimensional battle of peace...it is the battle of challenge in tourism, economy, industry and agriculture, and indeed it is a heated battle."

He said Jordan has the capabilities and potentials to fight "the battle of peace," and asked his fellow deputies: "Why do we fear the future? Should we, as opposition, only reject the treaty and normalisation by organising marches and issuing some statements? I call this form of opposition a negative one that is nationally unacceptable, especially that the treaty has now become a reality...and the opposition is now required to play a positive role in waging the battle of peace."

Islamist Deputies Criticize Peace Treaty

JN0611131794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—In meetings of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee last week, three opponents of the peace treaty, all Islamists, explained why they opposed the agreement. Top negotiator 'Awn al-Khasawinah, on the other hand, defended the agreement when he appeared before the panel, which is headed by deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Following are major excerpts from the three Islamist deputies' objections to the treaty, which they read out before the full House Saturday, and Mr. al-Khasawinah's defence of it:

Hamzah Mansur

Mr. Mansur said that Jordan's rights to its water and land, though extremely important, should not be taken separately from the Arab and Islamic rights. He said parts of the Arab and Islamic rights were usurped when they were part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which doubles the Kingdom's responsibility for them since they are an integral part, and since they were part of Jordan and it is unconstitutional to give them up.

The Islamist deputy refuted the government's claim that the treaty aims to protect the country from threats and conspiracies through demarcating the border in an internationally-recognised manner and said the government did not explain the source of threats and conspiracies facing Jordan after the signing of the treaty.

He also charged that the treaty does not constitute a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as the government has pledged, alleging that the whole peace process was a race with the Palestinian self-rule authority which caused the most serious breach to Arab ranks since the Camp David accords.

He added that the government kept repeating that it will not give up sovereignty over Jerusalem, and the treaty now converts this sovereignty to mere religious guardianship over Islamic holy sites. "And as the Oslo agreement (between the Israelis and the Palestinians) has unjustifiably and unacceptably postponed the issue of Jerusalem, the Jordanian treaty made enough with religious guardianship over holy places, leaving Arab and Islamic sovereignty over the holy city to the unknown,

despite affirmations by the government of the enemy state that unified Jerusalem is the eternal capital of 'Israel'" he said.

Mr. Mansur said despite that the government had repeatedly stressed that it will not conclude a treaty that does not solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons, it signed a peace treaty that provides for normalisation and security, and makes the issue of refugees and the displaced a humanitarian problem instead of a political one, leaving the issue to the United Nations' committees. "The treaty also gives the Zionist entity, under Paragraph 8 of Article 3, the right to private Israeli property ownership in Al Baqurah Naharayim area, and Jordan, based on that, pledges to allow the freedom of movement, entry and exit to owners of lands and their employees and visitors and to exempt them from any customs procedures or any discriminatory taxes and to take the necessary measures to prevent any harm to any person in the area and to approve the existence of the Israeli police in it and the implementation of Israeli laws over its residents for a period of 25 years that can be extended....," he said, arguing that these measures were unprecedented in the history of Arab-Israeli agreements when it gave the Israelis the right to own and use Arab lands.

He said the implementation of Article 4 in the treaty on security will have negative repercussions on several parties in Jordan and will lead to repressing public freedoms in the name of refraining from organising anti-Israeli actions. In addition, it bars Jordan from joining any military or security alliance which threatens inter-Arab agreements as well as political parties whose platforms call for the liberation of Palestine or seeking Arab unity, he said.

Furthermore, he continued, the treaty approves Israel's right to establish expansionist agricultural and industrial projects, surpassing its needs to meet the needs of the coming waves of Jewish immigrants, expected to total 2 million people over the coming six years.

He warned that the treaty will allow Israeli industries to penetrate the Jordanian market and threaten similar industries on the Jordanian side in view of the advanced level of the Israeli industries, their size and low cost.

Unfortunately, he said, the treaty has also called for assistance in settling refugees, saying this is rejected at both the public and official level.

"The Zionist entity has also succeeded in causing disputes between Jordan and the self rule authority over the issue of religious guardianship of holy places in Jerusalem, and the treaty stated that the freedom of visiting sites of religious or historic significance be guaranteed, thus delaying the discussion of the important and sensitive issue of Jerusalem to a later stages was provided by the Oslo agreement.

"The Jews have also succeeded in securing a pledge (from Jordan) to refrain from broadcasting hostile propaganda, and it is anticipated that this danger will

threaten—in addition to legislations and government—publications, school textbooks, mosque sermons, movies and all media of expression which will lead to more restrictions on freedoms and means of expression."

He further criticised the treaty saying it provides for cooperation between the two sides in almost all aspects of life, thus exceeding any inter-Arab agreement.

Muhammad Ahmad al-Hajj

Dr. al-Hajj said the treaty violates the first article of the Jordanian Constitution stressing the integrity of Jordanian lands, and said that when the Constitution was put into effect, the West Bank, including Jerusalem, was part of the Kingdom. He argued that the Kingdom's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was thus un-constitutional.

He said that the treaty violates U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 calling on Israel to withdraw from lands it occupied in 1967 or what is called the principle of "land for peace."

"The Jordanian people since 1967 until the Madrid conference understood that what is meant by the land (in the 'land for peace' formula) was the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Jordanian government did not mention in all that period any Jordanian lands occupied by Israel in 1968 or before, and nevertheless, these lands are included within the Jordanian lands that Israel should withdraw from..." He charged that the treaty was a separate deal with Israel although Jordan stressed its rejection of any separate peace treaty. "When Egypt signed the Camp David accords in 1978, Jordan swiftly moved to declare that it was not party to these accords and affirmed through a statement issued by the Jordanian Cabinet the principles governing Jordan's stand on peace, and stressed Jordan's belief in the need to have a comprehensive solution based on regaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on the occupied Palestinian land and the right of the Palestinian people on the occupied Palestinian land and the right of the Palestinian people to self determination... and then Jordan joined the Arab front rejecting the treaty, which met in Baghdad."

He said the other three Arab tracks which participated in the Madrid conference, and Egypt before them, consider the Jordanian treaty as a separate deal and consider the Washington Declaration as a deviation from Arab coordination similar to Egypt's deviation following the signing of the Camp David accords as well as Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat's deviation in Oslo, Norway.

He also blamed Jordan for giving up its demands to occupied Palestinian lands and referring the issue to the "weakened and shaky" Palestinian authority.

He said guarantees by the Jordanian Government to refrain from any anti-Israeli statements will create a confrontation between the government and the political

opposition, describing this as part of a Zionist plot and as a fierce aggression against Islam and Muslims under the pretext of extremism.

Claiming that the Jordanian economy will stand helpless in confronting the Israeli economy, he said that Israel will use the Jordanian market as a medium to penetrate other Arab markets, noting that this is something it failed to do after the Camp David accords.

He also criticised the agreement for failing to "properly" address the issues of refugees and Jerusalem.

Bassam al-'Umush

Dr. al-'Umush said politics and the status quo should not cancel Jordan's principled stands no matter how had the prevailing conditions are, reviewing sacrifices offered by the Jordanians and the Arab army for Palestine. He said Jordan was able in the past to achieve results better than those achieved in the treaty. "Were we stupid in the past? Are we the smartest of all today? So why did we wage wars? Why did we offer the blood of men in the battlefield? Why did we boycott Egypt and remove the headquarters of the Arab League from it? And why did we insist on our sovereignty over Jerusalem and on the fact that it is the essence of the conflict?" Dr. al-'Umush repeatedly asked.

He said Jordan was now at the threshold of a crucial stage that requires all its citizens to question their decisions and stands.

"I know that the treaty, regrettably, will gain the support of the majority (at the House) and this majority will have to face God and the people for its decision.... Today we are not inviting you to the principles of one party, but are calling on you to abide by the principles of the Koran and the Sunna and history," he added.

He said no party in Jordan has the claim to monopolise patriotism and said that all parties are debating the issue out of their love for Jordan, Palestine, and for all Arab and Muslim countries. "We are not in the opposition lines because we like that or because we like to have publicity, but the truth is that our opposition has its price and you know it. And we could have said 'yes' to the treaty and 'yes' to any government policy, but we will say repeat 'no' to very mistake the government commits. And we only say 'yes' to Jordan because it is our country, our land on which we live, and which we will defend with all the power we have," he asserted.

He reviewed the role of the Islamists in the historic events in the Kingdom, including the coup d'etat of the 1950's, the 1970 incidents and incidents in Ma'an in the late 1980s, saying the stands of the Islamists were in conformity with their beliefs and were not meant to achieve any factional gains. "We said 'yes' to stability in Jordan, 'yes' to the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people, 'no' for bloodshed, and 'yes' for Islamic-Arab brotherhood.

"Today we see people rejoicing over murdering security and killing national unity, and enjoying an incident happening here or there. We will not let them do that. The security men are our sons, their blood is ours and we will not allow a hypocrite to penetrate our lines, and we will not allow the treaty to reap the first fruits the Jews want," said Dr. al-'Umush.

He expressed reservations about most of the treaty's articles, but his criticism of articles on security was the most prominent in his statement. He said that since the treaty provides for establishing cooperative ties in the field of security, this means that all information on Jordanians will be in the hands of the Jewish security institutions.

He also argued that the treaty bans Jordan from joining any military or security coalition or bloc, which means, he said, cutting Jordan from the Arab and Islamic world and canceling all military and security treaties existing between Jordan other parties if they contravene the provisions of the treaty.

He stressed that although the treaty guarantees the freedom of expression. It still provides for combating terrorism and hostilities, arguing that ambiguities will play a role in defining terrorism and freedom of expression.

Also, Dr. al-'Umush claimed, the Jordanian economy was threatened by normalising relations with Israel, saying the Amman Financial Market and all its shares will be for sale, which will lead to a rise in share prices and thus those buying shares will do it only because they are prompted by far-sighted plots and designs, "and that it is the Jews who will buy Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Jordan Petroleum Refinery and the Sahab Industrial City, especially that our government is planning for privatisation."

He also denied that the treaty has "buried" the idea of having Jordan as the substitute homeland for the Palestinians and alleged that the opposite has happened. "Would we bet on the self-rule (authority) to become a Palestinian state as we see the Jews absorbing the (Palestine Liberation) Organisation, and will throw it away in the future?"

The Islamist deputy voiced objections to the Arabic translation of the treaty saying it was not precise and to the point.

'Awn al-Khasawinah

Last week, top negotiator 'Awn al-Khasawinah addressed the House Foreign Relations Committee as it was debating the treaty, reviewing developments in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations since the peace process was launched in Madrid in October 1991.

Dr. al-Khasawinah said although the Palestinians were included in the peace process under a joint umbrella provided by Jordan since Israel and one of the process

sponsors did not recognise the PLO, the Palestinians were since the beginning seeking independence on their track with the Israelis, stressing that Jordan had no objection to that issue. He said the Palestinian tendency towards independence and the related developments started in the Arab summit in Rabat, Morocco, in 1974 when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was recognised as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and this culminated in Jordan's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

Thus, added Dr. al-Khasawinah, the assumption on which Jordan based its negotiations was that its issues were excluded to the following points:

1. Demarcating and delineating its international borders in a final and recognised way to stop any expansionist designs and out of a desire to regain territory occupied by Israel.
2. Gaining its share of its international water.
3. Achieving an acceptable security equation which takes Israel's security fears into consideration without having that at the expense of Jordan's belonging to the Arab and Islamic nation and without harming its right to self defence needs and its citizens' right to enjoy their basic rights as stipulated by the Constitution.
4. Work on establishing an area free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in a way that protects the peoples of the region.
5. Establishing balanced economic relations in that the lifting of the Arab boycott be met by removing Israeli barriers that equal the effects of the Arab boycott and lead to facilitating the movement of persons, capital and labourers in the countries of the region.
6. Finding a just and acceptable solution to the bilateral aspects of the refugees problem on the basis of international law.
7. Not recognising in any form the legitimacy of Israel's existence in Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza strip. Thus, the Jordanian-Israeli agenda several times expressed reservations about the condition of territories that came under Israeli military rule in 1967.
8. That any solution be part of a comprehensive settlement.

Then Dr. al-Khasawinah dealt with some thorny issues that faced the Jordanian negotiators and which were successfully settled by them to the benefit of Jordan.

He said Paragraph 6 of Article 2 which states: "They further believe that within their control, involuntary movements of persons in such a way as to adversely prejudice the security of either party should not be permitted," was a Jordanian security requirement to counter demands by a minority in Israel to transfer Palestinians to Jordan.

The paragraph, he said, was originally included in the fourth article of the treaty which deals with security matters, but was moved to the second article on general principles so as no side will have this involuntary movement of persons under the pretext of legitimate self defence. In addition, the choice of the phrase "within their control" was intentionally chosen to prevent any indirect acts to evict the population not only within Israel proper but also in the occupied territories, he said.

Dr. al-Khasawinah also termed as a gain for the Jordanian government the inclusion of lands occupied in the 1940's or in the years 1968-69 which would not fall under the terms of reference of the U.N. Security Council resolutions which only call for withdrawal from lands occupied in the 1967 war.

He said that regaining the al-Baqurah area to Jordanian sovereignty was of extreme importance to Jordan in view of the area's strategic significance since it is the point where the Yarmuk and the Jordan rivers meet. "Thus the existence of Israeli ownership in it and the continuation of this ownership was secondary compared to the importance of regaining it."

He said the 4-square-kilometre al-Ghamr area which has 1,350 dunums of farm land was dealt with under the same footing, and since it was difficult for negotiators to settle it for its geographic nature, a compromise was reached allowing the Israelis the right to use the land only.

Dr. al-Khasawinah said since the Security issues constitute an obsession for the Israelis, the Jordanian negotiating team based its strategies on three principles:

1. Delaying discussing the issue to achieve the best results in the issues of water and borders.
2. Not to meet Israel's demands at the expense of Jordan's existing treaties with the Arab countries.
3. Securing the largest number of guarantees for Jordan in security issues of concern to the Kingdom, and that is, the issue of unconventional weapons, limiting negative influences on the Jordanian economy and limiting the negative influences of demographic movements.

Replying to deputies' fears that the article on security forbids Jordan from joining any military or security alliances, which some deputies interpreted as alliances with Arab countries, he said that the treaty only bars joining alliances which might be in contravention of the provisions of the treaty, affirming that the mere presence of troops on its land does not contradict the articles of the treaty.

He also said that Jordan has succeeded in striking a balance between the need to fight terrorism and the importance of respecting the basic freedoms to self expression and to organisation.

Describing the issue of refugees and displaced persons as the most complicated and difficult in the negotiations,

he said the Jordanian negotiators succeeded in bringing up the issue in the common agenda, and stressed that having the issue at the bilateral level was a success because it only commits Israel since there are no Jewish refugees in Jordan. He also underlined that including the phrase "in accordance with international law," included in the article on refugees also stresses the right of refugees or displaced persons to repatriation.

The Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles which delayed discussing the issue of refugees until the final stages of the negotiations has undermined the Jordanian position on the issue, according to Dr. al-Khasawinah, who said that the Jordanian negotiators worked to keep the issue open at three channels: the quadripartite committee grouping Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians, the multilateral working group on refugees and the bilateral and trilateral talks with the Israelis and the Palestinians.

TIMES Says Liquor Store Target of Explosion

JN0511100694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—An explosion occurred shortly after midnight outside a liquor store in central Amman Friday [4 November]. No casualties resulted from the incident.

Within about five minutes after the blast police raced to the scene close to the First Circle, cordoned off the area and blocked entry routes with four or five police vehicles, witnesses said.

Policemen who were seen inspecting the ground in the immediate vicinity refused to comment on the blast, which was heard from a kilometre away.

Police declined comment on the blast.

Policemen were deployed on roads within a few kilometres radius leading to and from the site, to check drivers' licences and inspect the trunk of cars.

Liquor store owner Samir Fakhuri said the blast may have been the work of religious extremists opposed to the sale of alcohol.

More than 20 Islamic fundamentalists are currently being tried by the State Security Court. They are charged with intent to destabilise the Kingdom.

The defendants have been implicated in connection with bomb attacks in 1993 and earlier this year outside liquor stores and cinemas proffering pornographic films.

Alcohol and sexually explicit films are seen by activists as exponents of social corruption infiltrating into the region from the West.

Mr. Fakhuri was seen running to the site around 15 minutes after the blast, while all other vehicles and passers-by were diverted away from it.

Later Friday, Mr. Fakhuri told the Jordan Times that he had owned the shop for four and half years and had never had problems before.

"We don't have any personal enemies," he said.

He added that the blast was thought to have been caused by something explosive contained in a Pepsi bottle.

The damage sustained, although not extensive, included a hole blown through the outside corrugated iron shutter and the wooden door within it. Tens of bottles of liquor were shattered.

Mr. Fakhuri's son said that they had been notified of the explosion by residents close to the shop and his father had immediately gone to the scene.

He also said that there were no injuries.

Despite the incident and the pungent smell of alcohol inside the shop, business continued yesterday as normal.

According to a news agency dispatch, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said that investigations were in progress to determine the motive of the attack.

Security around the capital was tightened throughout Friday.

Al-Hirawi Receives U.S. Envoy, Clinton Message

NC0811134694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130
GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning received U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Lebanon Ron Schlicher. The talks dealt with U.S. efforts in the Middle East and the outcome of the U.S. President's tour of the area countries, particularly Syria and Israel. The talks also touched on the conditions set by Syria and Israel for resuming the peace negotiations.

Our colleague Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din is now on the line to give us more details:

[Begin recording] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today received two messages: from U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The messages deal with the peace process in the region. The two messages were conveyed by U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ron Schlicher, who said after the meeting: I had the honor of meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. I conveyed two messages: from President Bill Clinton and Secretary Christopher. President Clinton wants President al-Hirawi to share his impressions of his recent Middle East tour. In his message, President Clinton refers to the progress made on the Jordanian track. President Clinton also discusses his meeting and talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He hopes that progress will be achieved on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks over the next few months.

In his message, President Clinton touched on the U.S. interest in the Lebanese Government's efforts at reconstruction and guarantees for the economic infrastructure after the war. President Clinton hoped for progress for Lebanon.

As for Christopher's message, Schlicher said the message deals with his efforts to follow up on contacts concerning the peace process. In his message, Christopher said that these efforts will resume during this month. [end recording]

Buwayz on Initiative on Joint Committee With Israel

NC0911160294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1456 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 9 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has asserted that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi's initiative on forming a Lebanese-Israeli committee to discuss arrangements to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory needs no clarification or correction.

In remarks today, Buwayz said the initiative expressed by President al-Hirawi during an exclusive interview with MENA's chairman of the board of directors and chief editor Mustafa Najib frankly expresses Lebanon's position on the issue although it is open to various interpretations.

Buwayz explained that the Lebanese president regards the six-month period specified in his initiative as the period during which the withdrawal would take place. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin views the six months as a period in which to test the intentions of the Lebanese officials and their ability to commit themselves to a secure border.

The foreign minister reiterated his view that President al-Hirawi's position is the right one.

Buwayz said current handling of the Syrian dossier has set positive developments in motion that will be beneficial to Lebanon. Listing the positive points as withdrawal, the area of withdrawal, and the manner of withdrawal, he said they are all conducive to a solution.

'Judicial Sources' on Arrests in Kidnap Plan Case

MM0911101094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
9 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Beirut: Two Arrested for Planning To Kidnap U.S. Plane Hijacker"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—AP yesterday quoted Lebanese judicial sources as saying that security services have arrested two persons on charges of planning to kidnap a Hizballah member named Hasan 'Izz-al-Din, who is suspected of involvement in the hijacking of a U.S. TWA plane in 1985—the operation during which a U.S. Navy diver was killed.

The sources, who declined to reveal their identity, said that the two arrested are Haytham Qazan (30) and Hasan Hamdar (28). And that they admitted planning to kidnap 'Izz-al-Din from the al-Awza'i area, south of Beirut, to move him by speedboat to a unit belonging to the U.S. fleet at sea. The sources also said that another arrest warrant has been issued for another person believed to be the mastermind behind the kidnap attempt. His name is 'Ali Talib (30). Well-informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that 'Ali Talib is probably in the United States now.

The fate of 'Izz-al-Din is not known. However, Shiite sources said he is now a member of the security organ belonging to pro-Iranian Hizballah.

The same judicial sources pointed out to the AP that 'Izz-al-Din is one of numerous people the United States is pursuing for their suspected involvement in terrorist operations against it in Lebanon between 1975 and 1990. He is one of four Lebanese Shiites indicted by the U.S. judiciary in connection with the hijacking of a TWA plane in June 1985 while flying from Athens and Rome with 153 passengers, mostly Americans, on board. The plane was diverted to Beirut, where the hijackers killed the U.S. diver Robert Stedman.

As is known, Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi was sentenced to life imprisonment in Germany on charges of killing the U.S. diver. He is one of the four wanted by Washington.

As is also known, Washington offered to pay a \$4-million award to anyone who provide information leading to the arrest of the hijackers of the plane or those who held Americans hostage in Lebanon in the eighties.

Judge Orders Reopening of 1983 Bombing Case

NC0911104394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] First Investigating Military Judge Riyad Tali' today issued judicial warrants to the Lebanese Army Intelligence Directorate, the State Security Intelligence Department, the Internal Security Forces, and the Judicial Police asking them to search for and apprehend those who in March 1983 killed and wounded a group of U.S. Marines and French forces by bombing the two buildings in which they were dwelling and who spread panic and fear among the people. The Judge asked that the results of the investigation be conveyed to him.

Further on Reopening of Case

NC0911091994 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] What is going on between Washington and Beirut and what are the reasons for this sudden flirtation that is replacing the long estrangement? What is the meaning of the mutual initiatives between the two sides, which give the impression that the relationship between the Lebanese and U.S. heads of state has all along been one of bread and honey, as the saying

goes? How did the events take this dramatic and unexpected turn? Many questions have cropped up all at once with some signs that something is being cooking up in secret and that someone has decided to walk a difficult road leading to an unknown destination. The events of the past few hours could give at least some clues about what we can expect in the next few days.

President al-Hirawi has received two messages from U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. It could not have occurred to anybody to expect such greetings and good wishes as expressed in the two messages. An even better gesture came a few hours later. AFP has quoted a judicial source as saying that the Lebanese Judiciary has decided to reopen the file on the bombing of the headquarters of the U.S. Marines and French troops in Beirut in 1983. More than 300 U.S. and French troops were killed in the bombings.

The same source added that Joseph (?Mi'mari), the government's assistant commissioner at the Military Court, had asked Chief Military Investigating Magistrate Riyad Tali' to follow up the bombing case and continue the investigations to find the culprits.

Israeli Gunboat Searches Ship off Tyre

NC0811132794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli gunboat cruising off the coast of Tyre has stopped a ship coming from Germany with a load of vehicles aboard. Its crew searched the vessel for two hours before allowing it to sail on.

Vice President Returns From Medical Trip

JN0811141894 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
9 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BILAD has learned that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has recently returned to Damascus after receiving medical treatment in Europe, where a cancerous tumor was removed from his stomach. Earlier reports spoke about the deterioration in Khaddam's health, who is considered the top Syrian official in charge of the Lebanese file. AL-BILAD's information, however, has confirmed that Khaddam resumed his usual duties a few days ago.

Cabinet Discusses Developments, Clinton Visit

JN0811180594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today and reviewed the work of the economic and cultural committees. The Council of Ministers also discussed current political developments in both the Arab and international arenas. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then reviewed these developments and the results of Arab and foreign visits and meetings, particularly the results of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Syria and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Briefs Ba'th Officials on Economy

JN0711071094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The comrade secretaries of the [Ba'th] Party's branches and governors resumed their meetings last night under comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by comrades People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, members of the Regional Command, the two deputy prime ministers, ministers, deputy directors of Regional Command bureaus, the head of the Party's Control and Inspection Committee, heads of popular organizations and professional associations,

head of the Central Control and Inspection Organization, university presidents, and the directors of media institutions. [passage omitted]

Comrade Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi made a comprehensive review of the various economic and services issues. He explained the policies, measures, and arrangements taken to deal with issues of the national economy in the agricultural and industrial fields, as well as in other production and services fields. [passage omitted]

New Oil Discoveries Said To Increase Output

JN0811150194 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 3 Nov 94
p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—Oil sources have told AL-BAYAN that the new oil discoveries in the Dayr al-Zawr Governorate have increased Syrian oil output to approximately 700,000 barrels per day [bpd]. The sources' estimates put the new increase in oil output at 100,000 bpd of light crude. According to official statistics, Syria produces a maximum of 600,000 bpd. [passage omitted]

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

JN091112294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

Prince Faysal told a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent that he is carrying a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz] to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He added: As is usual, there are constant consultations between the two leaders on regional developments, particularly the peace process and other issues of concern to the region and which require such consultations, especially since we are approaching an important conference—that is, the Islamic conference. The message deals with all these issues.

Afghanistan

Scores of Casualties in 'Heavy Fire' Kabul Exchange

LD0811181794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes and exchanges of heavy fire have been in progress since early morning today in and around points of contact between the forces loyal to the Afghan opposition's coordination council and President Borhanoddin Rabbani's forces in the south, southwest, and west of Kabul.

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, hospital sources have confirmed that scores of people have been killed or injured as a result of these latest clashes.

A military aircraft of the Afghan government forces yesterday bombed areas controlled by the opposition forces in the south and southwest parts of Kabul.

The clashes were still in progress this afternoon.

'Coalition' Unit Looted, Burned After Clash

LD0811215294 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The hireling Paris-Moscow coalition's 315th unit has been burned. According to a report by the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami news agency, after armed clashes between forces of Mohammad Anwar [word indistinct] and the armed men of Fahim and Mas'ud in Khayrkhana Mena in Kabul city and the surrounding hills, Fahim's riflemen looted all logistical material of the unit and then set fire to it. An eyewitness says that Mohammad Yunus Qanoni, a leader of the coalition, was at the scene. It should be noted that due to differences among various bands of the infamous Supervisory Council, clashes have been reported in the coalition-controlled areas.

Bangladesh

Opposition MP's Submit Resignations To Party Chiefs

BK0911032794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Bangladesh, all the 92 Members of Parliament [MP's] of the main opposition, Awami League, have handed over their resignation letters to the party president, Sheikh Hasina Wajed. At an emergency meeting in Dhaka yesterday, the party empowered Mrs. Wajed to send the resignations to the parliament speaker at an appropriate time. This is part of a move to force the government to accept their demand for general elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Earlier, all the 35 MP's of ousted President Ershad's Jatiya Party have handed over their resignation letters to their party chief. The entire opposition has been boycotting parliament for the last nine months demanding fresh polls. The Commonwealth mediator dialogue between the two sides failed to end the crisis. The opposition has strongly criticized prohibitory orders imposed in Dhaka today to thwart their program to stage a dharna [sit-in strike] at the prime minister's office to press their demand.

Opposition Rejects Proposal for Interim Government

BK0911091694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Bangladesh, the opposition parties have rejected the latest proposal by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party for a multiparty interim government to conduct the next general elections. It is understood to have suggested that the interim administration to be headed by Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman will consist of five members from the ruling party and four from the opposition. A meeting of the combined opposition in Dhaka late last night unanimously rejected the proposal and insisted on a neutral caretaker government for the elections.

Dhaka Police Ban Rallies; 50 Injured in Protests

BK0711133894 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the plan announced by various political parties to stage a sit-in protest in front of the prime minister's office on Wednesday [9 November], the commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has issued an order banning the holding of meetings, rallies, and processions in different parts of the city from midnight tomorrow until midnight Wednesday. These areas include Bangla Motor crossing, Bangla Motor link road, Panthopath, Green Road crossing, Manik Mia Avenue, Mirpur crossing, the west end of (Trunk) Road, Karatoa crossing, Shyamoli-Shishu Mela crossing, Agargaon crossing, the road in front of the Taltala gas pump, the old airport area, the second gate of Dhaka Cantonment called Shaheed Jahangir Hossain Gate, Mohakhali crossing, Nabisco crossing, the junction of seven roads, the railway crossing in front of the FDC [Film Development Corporation], Bangla Motor crossing [repetition as heard], and all roads and lanes that fall within these areas. Apart from this, the carrying of firearms, swords, rods, lathis [batons], and explosives and the hurling of stones have been banned in all areas of Dhaka during this period.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1247 GMT on 7 November in a Dhaka-dated report adds: "Some 50 people were injured Monday as police battled supporters of a rightwing and Muslim fundamentalist alliance which is demanding that Commonwealth special envoy

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Sir Ninian Stephen leave Bangladesh. Witnesses said baton-wielding police fired tear gas to disperse several thousand supporters of the Combined Action Council (CAC), which groups 13 rightwing and fundamentalist groups. The demonstrators hurled stones and sticks at police in an attempt to break through a police barricade in downtown Dhaka and march to Stephen's official residence. The clashes occurred about half a kilometer from the residence. Several policemen were among the injured, the witnesses said."

Police Teargas Clashing Opposition Activists

BK0911085494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Nov 9 (AFP)—Police fired teargas shells here Wednesday [9 November] to disperse thousands of opposition activists who tried to break through a police barricade in an anti-government demonstration.

The violence began shortly after midday near the Parliament House, where police stopped protesters, most of them from the main opposition Awami League (AL) party, under a 24-hour ban.

The ban prohibits any demonstrations near the office of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

At least half a dozen people were wounded in earlier clashes, when activists set fire to tyres, and more protestors continued to arrive in the area.

Organisers said AL chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed, who has headed the opposition's eight-month-long campaign against the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government, was expected to join the main protest later Wednesday.

Opposition leaders have said they would defy the protest ban. Thousands of police and paramilitary troops have been called in to enforce the ban and ensure public security.

The opposition plans to stage a sit-in protest in front of Zia's office to pressure her into accepting a demand for a constitutional amendment that would guarantee free elections under a neutral interim administration.

Many opposition figures have said that fair polls are impossible under Zia's government, but the prime minister has rejected the allegation.

Chief whip Muhammad Nasim of the Awami League has condemned the police ban and said "it seems the government has chosen the path of confrontation to stay in power."

Meanwhile, Nurul Islam Moni became the third legislator from the BNP to support the call for a caretaker government. Nurul Islam Moni also backed a proposal made by a sacked information minister that the chief justice head such an interim government.

In a statement published Wednesday, he said "the nation would fall into a deep crisis if the opposition MP's resigned."

The opposition has threatened to resign en masse from the parliament, which they have been boycotting since March to push their demand.

Zia has said she was ready to solve the crisis through talks, but on Wednesday scheduled an official trip to the southeastern port city of Chittagong during the protest.

Tension prevailed in the capital after Zia's BNP and opposition parties rejected compromise formulas reached with the help of Commonwealth special envoy Sir Ninian Stephen.

It was uncertain when the stalled Commonwealth-brokered talks would resume, but one political observer said the conflict had become a "game of nerves."

India

Commentary on Efforts To Restore Close Russian Ties

BK0811163394 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas
Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Commentary by Yash Narain Roy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the 16-member parliamentary delegation from Russia and Defense Secretary K. Nambiar's recently concluded five-day visit to Moscow highlight not only the significance of bilateral economic and defense ties, but also underline the briskness with which efforts are being made by the two sides to restore the past close relationship between India and Russia. In September, Commerce Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was in Moscow to attend the first full meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission. Earlier, Home Minister Mr. S.B. Chavan and the Air Force chief, Air Marshal S.K. Kaul, had been to Moscow. It is almost like the old days when interaction between Moscow and New Delhi was constant.

It is quite apparent that Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's Russia visit in June this year has indeed acted as a catalyst in reviving the special ties between the two countries. Though Russian misgivings about India paying its debt and Indian fears about Moscow toeing the Western line on political issues have not been fully allayed, trade between the two countries seems to be on the road to revival.

The Indo-Russian agreement on drawing up a five-year plan to strengthen defense cooperation is also reassuring. The recent talks lead to suggest that at least on a medium-term basis an agreement would be possible over a (?free) supply of maintenance parts and equipment, since much of India's military hardware is of Russian

origin. There has also been an agreement on setting up a joint venture in India for making MiG aircraft spares and servicing these aircraft.

Although India and Russia are known to each other for a long time, the reality in Russia has undergone a radical change since the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Russia is in the midst of economic reforms. If anything, it is passing through a more serious test than India. Not only defense ties but even economic and political interaction between the two countries have been affected because of the ongoing transition in Russia. For example, the trade turnover plummeted from \$5.5 billion in 1990 to about \$1 billion last year. Happily, bilateral trade is now again showing signs of recovery and could increase to \$1.5 billion by the year end.

The visit of the parliamentary delegation from Russia will further cement ties between the two countries. This is the second visit by a Russian parliamentary delegation since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the first after a new parliament was elected in December last year. Mr. Ivan P. Rybkin, leader of the delegation, is fairly senior in the Russian political hierarchy. During his talks with Prime Minister Rao, Rybkin [words indistinct] to the effort that Moscow should retain its traditional ties with New Delhi, saying that an old friend was better than 100 new friends. Several parliament members have on various occasions maintained that the Russian parliament can play an active role in improving Indo-Russian bilateral relations. Only recently, Mr. (Vladimir Lukhin), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the State Duma, maintained that India faces similar challenges as we do, yet it has survived as a single nation and is forging ahead. This makes Indian experiment unique for Russia and we should try to learn from it as much as possible.

The suggestion reportedly made by Mr. Rybkin to establish three-way defense cooperation between Russia, India, China though welcome, can be viewed only with guarded optimism. Mr. Rybkin also supported India's claim for a permanent seat in the Security Council in case of any restructuring of it. It shows Indo-Russian ties have acquired additional warmth and understanding of each other's requirements in the past few months. Russia's support on Kashmir issue is another landmark in the Indo-Russian friendship.

Editorial on 'Interesting' PRC Trade Bloc Proposal

BK0911101594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
2 Nov 94 p 8

[Editorial: "An Interesting Idea"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China's ambassador to India, Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, has put forward an interesting idea of India and China forming a bilateral trading bloc to their mutual benefit. The proposal was informal rather than official, thrown up at a seminar in Calcutta last

week organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. It is, of course, greatly premature at this stage. Although trade between the two Asian giants has grown following the improvement in Sino-Indian relations, at around US\$675 million it can scarcely be called significant. Moreover, in view of the recent protocol to increase direct trading it would be more fruitful to think of ways of expanding and diversifying the items traded before anything as ambitious as a broad range of preferential tariffs can be considered. The ambassador is reported specifically to have asked for lower Indian tariffs on Chinese consumer goods. This is a field where China with a 10 year head start may have many advantages. There is reason also to wonder whether there might not be a bit of posturing here in the midst of the difficulties China is encountering over admission to GATT.

Nevertheless, Indian industry has been given some food for thought. The idea of a Sino-Indian trading bloc nudges forward the issue of how far and how fast intra-Asian trade can develop. The North American Free Trade Agreement and conclusion of the Uruguay Round have raised many kinds of expectations about preferential trading arrangements. Thus, even though it would take something of a miracle to breathe life into the proposed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] preferential trading arrangement, moves are afoot, which the Finance Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh endorses, to boost trade with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh by lowering tariff barriers and removing quantitative restrictions. The Chinese proposal, of course, goes a lot further than the matter of a few concessions. In essence it raises the question of whether in the near rather than distant future two large economies with very similar competitive advantages in the way of raw materials, skills and low labour costs will have specialised to the point where a much larger volume of goods and services can be traded bilaterally than the present trend suggests. Much enhanced Sino-Indian trade can undoubtedly be mutually beneficial but it is too early for optimism.

Iran

'Eye-Witnesses' Say Bombing Raids 'Accurate'

LD0911131594 Tehran IRNA in English 1227 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Preliminary information obtained from eye-witnesses inside Iraq confirms that today's bombing of the bases of terrorists inside Iraq has been very "accurate and effective". Military authorities in Tehran said that violent and terrorist acts perpetrated by groups in recent months had been directed from the bombed base.

Over the past two weeks, the members of the armed groups had killed or kidnapped several villagers traveling on border roads in southern part of West Azarbaijan Province, according to local security officials.

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The officials said that an attack in September on an agro-industrial complex in Mahabad, West Azarbaijan Province had been designed in the base which was bombed Wednesday morning. Hampering development projects being implemented in the region are among other activities of the armed groups.

Border dwellers in western Iran have time and again requested local officials over the past couple of months to take immediate measures to provide security for the region.

Knowledgeable sources among local people reported last month that ringleaders of counterrevolutionary groupings held sessions in their base in Sanjaq.

Rebel Radio on 'Failed' Air Attack

NC0911155894 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1500 GMT 9 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a series of operations this morning, aircraft of Khomeyni's regime reportedly failed to infiltrate the airspace of the National Liberation Army [NLA] bases and bomb them, thanks to the alertness of the NLA's air defenses. In relation to this aggressive operation, this morning, AFP, REUTERS, AP, and International (?Television) [word indistinct] reported that a Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran [MKO] base inside Iraq was the target of an air attack. AFP reported that the Khomeyni regime's news agency cited regime (?military) sources as saying a base for the MKO—the Iranian regime's major opposition—was attacked in Iraq and that this was in retaliation for several attempts by the MKO to infiltrate and commit aggression against Iranian border areas.

The Khomeyni regime's news agency then reported that four Iranian jets bombed the [word indistinct] center of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [words indistinct] north of Kirkuk [words indistinct].

The MKO press spokesman in Paris today strongly condemned today's criminal air attack by the wretched clerical regime and in answer to the questions put by international correspondents and news agencies on the Khomeyni regime's allegations on the bombing of one of the NLA bases, added: Since the NLA air defenses are on full alert, the aircraft of Khomeyni's regime failed to enter the airspace of the National Liberation Army headquarters and bomb it. The MKO press spokesman said: Hashemi-Rafsanjani is [words indistinct] in Kermanshah, that is, the same place from which three Scud-B missiles were fired at [words indistinct] a few days ago. Apparently, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on his visit to Kermanshah, is to be informed of the situation of the regime's Armed Forces in the border areas and preparations for a series of war operations along the Iran-Iraq border.

The silence by the Security Council, especially by America and Europe, on the firing of Scud missiles has left the regime's hand open to perpetrate any type of aggression or war crime. At the same time, in a bid to

distract public opinion and to mask their violation of international norms in parallel with their aggression and war crimes, the clergymen spread lies about infiltration and clashes involving the MKO. The world should decisively condemn the firing of Scud-B missiles and the air aggression that the Khomeyni regime has officially [word indistinct].

IRGC-Havaniruz Operation Kills 'Bandits'

LD0811143094 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kerman, Nov. 8, IRNA—Some special units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) backed by helicopters of the Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz) killed some 25 bandits in "Kahnuj" region, Kerman Province early this week, a reliable IRGC source said here Tuesday.

"Some 100 pieces of light and heavy weapons, 15 wireless telecommunication sets, 20 binoculars and 30 motorcycles were seized during the joint IRGC-Havaniruz operations," the source said.

Commander of Havaniruz base in Kerman Colonel Abedi said the offensive was launched at Ourtin District, 65 km from Qal'eh-ye Ganj region on the outskirts of Kahnuj town, which borders Hormozgan and Sistan va Baluchestan provinces.

He said some of the notorious bandits killed in the operation had already been involved in the killing of scores of innocent people. Some 300 kg of opium were also seized from the bandits, the commander concluded.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Presides Over Antinarcotics Meeting

LD0811205794 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The headquarters for campaigning against narcotics held a meeting here today presided over by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The session lauding the success of the anti-narcotics campaign, underlined the need for strengthening the law enforcement forces in this regard. Continuation of the anti-drug campaign and presence of the law enforcement units in eastern part of the country was also stressed.

The session decided on macro policies for the anti-drug campaign and called for setting up of a special commission comprising of representatives from the judiciary branch, law enforcement forces, Health Ministry and the secretariate of the headquarters, to tackle the problem.

In related news, it was disclosed that 12,625 drug dealers and addicts were arrested in Tehran during the first half of the current year. Some 3,266 kgs of different types of narcotics were also seized in the said period.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Remarks on Security Noted

NC0911081594 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Nov 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night during a meeting with the interior minister and the governors general of the provinces, the president underlined the need for perseverance, harmony, and further efforts by the country's officials in fulfilling the government's objectives and constructive plans.

Referring to the existing security in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which cannot be compared with the security in any other country in the region or the world, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Being fully alert to the mischief of the enemy and the multifaceted presence of the revolutionary people in various areas ensures the success of the holy system of the Islamic republic.

The establishment of peace and order in the country, which has been unprecedented over the past 15 years, is the outcome of multifaceted efforts by the people and officials to lay the necessary groundwork for development and construction—something which will definitely be the prologue to economic and social development.

The Islamic Republic of Iran borders on various countries that have faced severe political-social crises in the past few years. By intensifying its activities to guard its border, the Islamic Republic of Iran's domestic security has not been harmed by regional frictions. Despite the fact that it is situated in a critical area, despite the eight years of sacred defense, and in comparison to countries that have enjoyed peace and order for years, the social security in our country compares favorably, and even exceeds expectation, with world figures.

Now that the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran are targeting all their propaganda efforts at distorting the economic and reconstruction efforts in the country, the meaning of social and economic security will be more important than ever before. The objective of the enemies at this phase of the Islamic revolution is to portray Iran as a country that has been unsuccessful in implementing its economic plans. Without a doubt, in this confrontation, the creative and striving Iranian nation will once again put into action the social and economic machinery of the country and will neutralize the enemies' plots.

Khamene'i Lauds Antiprofitteering Campaign

LD0911132794 *Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 9 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday lauded President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his "firm resolve" to fight profiteering.

"In addition to the officials, all those enjoying social and political capabilities should cooperate with the president in such an important national issue," the supreme leader said. Ayatollah Khamene'i was speaking to governors general who have gathered together in Tehran to participate in a seminar.

"The president, as a prominent personality and a popular and respectable official will decisively proceed with his anti-profitteering policy and governors general should take this policy seriously and directly supervise its implementation in their respective areas," the leader said.

The leader of the Islamic revolution also advised the governors general to treat people kindly and sincerely, saying they shoulder heavy duties such as development of provinces, removal of shortages, creation of jobs and increasing incomes of people. He described the Interior Ministry as the most important ministry which shoulders heavy responsibilities.

Referring to the power of Islamic Iran at home and abroad, the leader said despite political animosity of its enemies, the pillars of the Islamic Republic are getting stronger than before.

Today, he said, the enemies of the country which once wished to overthrow the Islamic system in Iran, have been convinced that they should adapt themselves to this system at any rate.

Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati briefed the supreme leader on the agenda of the nationwide seminar of governors general.

Khamene'i Addresses Ministers, Governors

LD0911132894 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] At this morning's meeting with the interior minister, deputy ministers, and advisers from the Interior Ministry and governors general from all over the country, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, great leader of the Islamic Revolution, pointed out to the governors the need to consolidate sincere and loving contacts with the people and to observe Islamic respect and authority. He emphasized their hard efforts in the campaign against profiteering.

The esteemed leader in his remarks referred to the Ministry of Interior as the most important ministry, with serious heavy and important responsibilities, and added: In addition to ensuring the country's security and creating a safe and sound climate for the people, the governors general bear significant responsibilities for progress and construction in the provinces, alleviating shortcomings, connecting the province's issues to national projects, and correctly allocating their budgets for regional projects. This includes the construction of nationwide roads, creating jobs, the development of

rural areas, reducing the gap between rich and poor, and increasing the income of the people.

The esteemed leader praised President Rafsanjani's decisiveness in his serious campaign against profiteering and added: In addition to the country's officials, those people who enjoy political and social influence should cooperate with the president and the government in this very important national issue. The president, as an outstanding and committed person as well as a prestigious official who is acceptable and loved by people, will pursue decisively and firmly the policy of campaign against profiteering. The governors general, too, by regarding this decision as a serious matter, should directly supervise its implementation in their regions.

The esteemed leader described the main path of the system of the Islamic Republic as the path of God and the people. In his address to the governors general, he said: Based on a realistic, true, and spiritual criterion, each high-ranking official of the Islamic system must be closer to God than others. It is only by recognizing the Islamic criteria and applying them that capability for work and the influence of words and approval of God could be achieved.

Referring to Islamic Iran's prestige at home and abroad, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The enemies of the Iranian nation have unleashed their biggest political wrath against the Islamic Republic regime so far; nevertheless, the foundations of this regime have become stronger on a daily basis. Our opportunistic enemies, who wish to topple the Islamic regime, have are content today to make themselves concordant and to live in harmony with this regime by whatever means possible. We owe all this to divine mercy only.

Concluding his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i instructed the governors general to strengthen their links with God and to make themselves more familiar with the holy Koran. [passage omitted]

'Adeli Appointed International Economic Adviser
LD0711143194 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT
7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today appointed Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli as his advisor for international economic affairs. 'Adeli was formerly the governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank and replaced by Hoseyn Nurbakhsh recently.

Mohtashemi Comments on Need To Safeguard Values
NC0711094894 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
1 Nov 94 p 1

[Report on remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at the Congress of the

Islamic Revolution's Fight Against World Arrogance at Tehran University on 31 October]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In his speech at Tehran University yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi stated: It is unfortunate that some high-ranking officials in the country are seeking to implement policies that will once again allow America to dominate Islamic Iran.

He said: Unfortunately, I am aware of the views of some of these officials, who believe that the best type of regime in the Persian Gulf is that of Saudi Arabia.

According to Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, these gentlemen state that the situation in Saudi Arabia is the best politically, economically, and for development. He clarified that these officials believe that the salvation of the Islamic Republic is contingent upon having a regime similar to that of Saudi Arabia.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi also added: We have now reached a point where, in the 15 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, some officials denigrate themselves so much that they see everything in terms of the filthy presence of the Americans.

Strongly criticizing the privatization policy in the country, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said: Those who are charging ahead toward privatization or, put another way, toward setting the economy free in Islamic Iran, are among those who have been directly or indirectly deceived by America. He also added: The personality of these people has been formed in the various political, economic, espionage, and security organizations of America. Hojjat ol-Eslami Mohtashemi continued by stating that the memory of 4 November [the occupation of the American Embassy] should always be kept alive.

During the Congress, which was attended by various political and cultural personalities of the country, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi underlined the need to safeguard the values and principles of the Islamic revolution, saying: The Islamic revolution's values and principles should be safeguarded in all circumstances, even if the nation has to suffer many losses.

He said that one of the revolutionary efforts of the third Majles session was to set a day to be "the national day for the fight against world arrogance," adding: Had this not been done, 4 November would have been cast into oblivion like many other values, big and small.

Referring to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said: Today the various nations and peoples of the world have a much clearer picture of what world arrogance, led by the world-devouring America, is; and today America has emerged as the leader of arrogance and the sole arrogant power in the world. [passage omitted]

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Aviation Organization Denies 'Rumors' on Crash
*LD0611230094 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT
6 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Iran's Civil Aviation Organization here Sunday refuted as baseless rumors spread inside or outside the country on the cause of the Fokker F-28 crash on October 12. The public relations office of the organization in an announcement said that examinations so far conducted on the debris of the crashed plane have not corroborated any explosion or act of sabotage on board the plane.

The passenger plane, a Fokker F-28 en route from Esfahan to Tehran, crashed on October 12 and all of its 59 passengers and seven crew died in the incident. The public relations office of the Civil Aviation Organization also said that the outcome of the examinations will be announced subsequently.

Majles Debates Second Development Plan
*LD0611132394 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT
6 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—The Majles today began its debate on the details of a bill on the government's Second Five Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan (1995-2000).

Outlining the views of the Majles' select committee on the bill, rapporteur of the committee, Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said that it has been forecast that the government would fulfill all its foreign obligations during the second plan.

The government's new obligations should be in the forms of barter and finance worth at most \$25 billion, Nobakht who is also a deputy from Rasht, the capital of the northern Caspian province of Gilan said. In the plan, he said, the government will be allowed to spend new obligations on carrying out only power plants, oil and steel projects.

The government's revenues in the second economic development plan have been estimated at rls. 227,311 billion of which 50 percent will be obtained from oil exports, 26 percent from taxes and 24 percent from other resources, he said.

According to estimates, the government's oil revenue will grow by 8.3 percent and its tax incomes by 18.2 percent during the second development plan, he said.

Nobakht said that the second plan envisaged a total expenditure of rls. 238,186 billion of which 56 percent will be the share of current expenditures and 44 percent that of development expenditure. The growth of current and development expenditures have been predicted to be 10.9 and 21.1 percent respectively, the rapporteur of the selection commission said.

To cut the size of governmental establishments, the growth of private and public consumption has been predicted to be four and nine percent respectively.

Under the Second Five Year Development Plan, he said, rls. 14,000 billion will be invested and two million jobs will be created mostly in industries sector.

"It has been predicted that we will have \$100 billion worth of exports and \$91 billion worth of imports during the second plan," he said. The Majles deputy put the share of non-oil exports during the second plan at \$17 billion and predicted that the figure would amount to \$27 billion by the end of the plan.

With formation of a high export council and an export guarantee fund, creation of new transportation facilities and removal of legal impediments, export of non-oil commodities would substantially increase, he said.

Majles Continues Discussion of Saving-Energy Bill

*LD0911130594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
9 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Majles continues its discussion of the bill on the country's second five-year economic development plan. In today's session the deputies voted to allow the Economic Council to determine telephone charges, postal service prices, and the level of investment by the post and telecommunications companies during the years of the second development plan. [passage omitted]

According to Note 19 of the second development plan bill, to economize in energy consumption and to reduce consumption to a rational level which would protect the environment, the government is dutybound to take the necessary measures. Among these measures would be technical specifications and criteria required for testing all energy-consuming machinery, vehicles, and appliances, the imposition of tariffs on imports, and the introduction of taxes on domestic production of such machinery and appliances.

Other measures include instructing the Commerce Ministry to determine the working hours of various trades and professions and the observance by factories and industrial units of seasonal opening hours in accordance with the instructions of the relevant ministries.

Another measure necessary to reduce energy consumption is the training of pupils and students. Some school and university study curriculums would include the importance of water consumption and various forms of energy. The public would also receive the necessary training through radio and television and the press.

Note 19 says: The tariff charge for water and energy consumed by educational establishments, both private and state schools and higher education institutes, and the cultural sector, including the Voice and Vision, public

libraries, and museums, will remain the same as for this year. The tariff charge will not increase during the second development plan. The Energy and PTT [Post, Telegraph, and Telephone] Ministries are dutybound to redesign the bills they sent to electricity and gas consumers and telephone subscribers and to simplify them so that all consumers will understand how much they have to pay for their consumption. [passage omitted]

Production Increases at Lavan Oil Refinery

LD0811101394 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 8 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Production capacity at the Lavan refinery has gone up from 20,000 to 30,000 barrels a day. According to IRNA, as a result of the installation of a kerosene circulation pump system at the refinery, it now has the capacity to produce kerosene and jet oil, as well as a 50-percent higher production capacity. Considerably less energy will also be used in the distillation unit.

Speaking about the project, the head of the Shiraz and Lavan refineries said that all the necessary work for manufacturing and installing the relevant equipment was carried out by the refineries' employees and that there are plans to prepare, through other changes, to increase the Lavan refinery's production capacity to 40,000 barrels a day.

The Lavan refinery was put into operation in 1354 [year beginning 21 March 1975]. The refinery, which is situated on Lavan Island, currently produces gas-oil and distillate and residual fuel oils.

Iraqi Forces Reportedly Arrest Nine Fishermen

LD0911092394 *Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 9 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abadan, Khuzestan Prov., Nov. 9, IRNA—Iraqi forces arrested nine Iranian fishermen and took them to Iraq on Monday. An official at Abadan Governorate Tuesday said that the fishermen were arrested at a time when their vessel had run aground in the banks of Arvand River due to atmospheric changes. The official said that repatriation of the fishermen is being followed through legal and international channels.

Clinton Trip Called 'Farce'; U.S Policy Hit

NC0511183494 *Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Oct 94 p 12*

[Unattributed commentary: "An Ill-Omened Visit!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Clinton's visit to the Middle East has ended. The important objectives of this farce of U.S. diplomacy are as follows:

1. To strengthen and intensify the trend of closeness to the Zionist regime in general.

2. To elicit a declaration of support from the reactionary Arab regimes which are in the forefront in calling for direct talks and relations and are in favor of signing bilateral accords with Israel.

3. To put psychological pressure on independent governments that are resisting the trend toward compromise in the Middle East.

4. To use U.S. propaganda to successfully project U.S. and Israeli policy in the Middle East and gain victory for the reactionary and Zionist fronts.

5. To make use of Iraq's amateurish military moves to strengthen the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, enhance the signing of new agreements for the purchase of arms and military equipment, and set up new bases in the littoral shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf. The Democrats also wish to share the success of the Republicans in suppressing Iraq and reoccupying Kuwait.

6. To compensate for the U.S. defeat in Yemen despite the extensive U.S. presence in the region.

At first glance, allegations by the officials of the countries concerned and the general atmosphere conjured up by the mass media make it appear that the Americans have been successful to a great extent in their objectives. However, the key obstacle in the path of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East remains, despite the immense propagandist clamor.

The United States has not been able to subjugate the Damascus axis, and a readjustment of the stances of the Islamic movements in the region also appears highly unlikely. Saddam is still ruling in Baghdad and, despite Bush' claim that leaving Saddam in place was a preliminary for the success of the Democrats in bringing about an accord between Arabs and Israel, the Iraq issue can be construed as one of the United States' main failures in the Middle East.

U.S. policy was also ineffective with regard to Sudan and Libya, and even more so with Iran. Despite the bitter news of some servile Arab regimes' signing bilateral accords with Israel, the sounds of explosions and resistance resonate more forcefully than ever before from the heartland of the occupied territories and convey their distinctive message to the people of the world.

The negative social fallout of the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf in countries such as Saudi Arabia, although it is not yet at a crisis level, is a new and unprecedented phenomenon.

In any case, the visit by Clinton to the region is a warning. On the eve of 4 November and the anniversary of the national day of struggle against the powers of world arrogance, the vigilance and sensitivity of Islamic and revolutionary forces is imperative to combat the creeping movement of the triangle of Arab reactionaries, Zionism, and the United States.

Economic Impact of U.S. Mideast Policy Viewed

NC0511130094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in
Persian 1 Nov 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States—
Impotent Before the Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. secretary of state once again called on U.S. allies to strengthen their stances against, reduce economic relations with, and halt arms sales to the Islamic Republic of Iran. This call comes simultaneously with the visit by U.S. President Clinton to the Middle East, the main aim of which is to boost Israel and to unify the stances of Arab countries toward the interests of the Zionists.

Clinton's visit to the Middle East is taking place at a time when the opposition and demonstrations by the Muslims against his visit is openly evident in the Arab countries. The U.S. Administration has once again propounded the issue of the West's economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to keep up the momentum of world public opinion against Muslims. This is the most repetitive of the policies used by the United States in its acts of collusion during the past few years. Even after the lapse of 15 years since the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. Government has not been able to comprehend the clear, independent, and new policy of our country on international issues.

U.S. President Bill Clinton continues to repeat the mistakes of his predecessors, oblivious to the fact that his position is much weaker at present to continue such a course of action than that of the former U.S. presidents.

During the imposed Iran-Iraq war and in the middle of the past decade, the price of crude oil plummeted in the international market and resulted in a \$6-billion decrease in Iran's foreign exchange earnings. Iran was able to fulfill its import needs even in the procurement of U.S.-made components and equipment used in the petroleum and aviation industries. U.S. threats of economic embargoes did not amount to anything. Two years ago at the G-7 session (heads of seven industrial countries), the United States asked its allies to curtail their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran so that it would not have an opportunity to recover.

Despite this request by the United States, Iran's relations with its European and Japanese trading partners entered a new phase. According to a knowledgeable expert, Iran's talks with the Western and Japanese creditors for the rescheduling of debts worth \$10 billion on its delinquent transactions and the retaining of durable economic relations based on reciprocal respect emerged as a trump card dealt by Iran against the U.S. policies on the international scene. He asserts that the U.S. efforts in preventing any agreements between the European and Japanese creditors and Iran on its foreign pending accounts were defeated.

U.S. politicians sought to drag the issue of talks to the Paris Club [preceding word in English] and to rig up a

scenario to Iran's detriment. This is while five years ago the Islamic Republic of Iran rejected the program of economic adjustment proposed by the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. On the contrary, it presented a model of independent economic, social, and cultural development, thus preempting the occurrence of such a situation and closed the door on any possible talks or the imposition of the U.S. viewpoint.

According to the former Central Bank governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran, more than \$110 billion were invested in the economic structure in Iran during the implementation of the first socioeconomic 5-year development plan, of which one-third came from foreign financial sources.

A senior expert from the Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry, who does not wish to divulge his name, believes that when the United States created obstacles in the path of Iran gaining access to inexpensive international monetary sources, it was able to independently procure the funds it needed through positive and constructive efforts.

When oil prices were following a downward trend on the international market—the role of the multinational companies and conglomerates cannot be denied on this matter—the Islamic Republic of Iran encountered difficulties in its foreign payments and the backlog of its commitments, but it succeeded in resolving these issues through negotiations with its creditors.

Thus, Iran is in a better position on the international scene and the U.S. efforts to continue the economic embargo and to motivate Iran's trading partners to downgrade or sever their relations with Iran could not inflict any losses on its economy.

According to the statistics presented by Western news sources, the value of exports from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the six main industrial countries of the world in 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991] was \$10.3 billion, while in the same year the aforementioned countries exported \$9 billion of various commodities (goods for further and indirect investment, industrial components, and equipment) to Iran. These sources estimate the value of the exports by those countries to Iran in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] as exceeding \$12 billion.

Despite the reduction in Iran's foreign exchange earnings from petroleum, the growing trend of exports by the industrial countries to Iran in 1370 and 1371 indicates the confidence that Iran's trading partners had in its economic situation.

According to some independent economic experts, the previous Iranian economic development plan did not use local talent and domestic resources, absorbing financial resources and importing equipment required for industrial, infrastructural, and other projects from the main industrial countries of the world.

Now, with the assistance of indigenous experts, specialists, researchers, and industrialists and the optimum utilization of economic potential [preceding word in English], Iran's need for foreign exports and finance have decreased immensely. Thus, U.S. policy will encounter more failure than before in seeking to exert its influence on Iran's economy.

The Western news agencies, including AFP, believe that Iran's economic partners will not relinquish the growing and flourishing Iranian market and their long-term economic relations and cooperation with our country very easily. According to experts, the Islamic Republic of Iran will also very intelligently separate the ledgers of the friends and foes of the Revolution, as it believes in the value of friendly relations and reciprocal cooperation based on respect for one another's rights. This principle ensures the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of its economic partners.

AFP recently carried a report in Paris on an appraisal of the U.S. stance, stating: According to diplomatic sources, there is a very slight possibility that the U.S. allies would respond to Warren Christopher's call to strengthen their stances against Tehran, which he accuses of "supporting government-sponsored terrorism," as most of these countries enjoy lucrative economic relations with Iran.

AFP adds: On Monday [24 October] on the eve of Bill Clinton's visit to the Middle East, Warren Christopher called on U.S. allies not to sell arms to Iran and to refrain from giving it priority in economic relations. However, this call did not elicit any reaction from the relevant countries. AFP continues: The interesting point worth noting is that the United States and Britain are those rare industrial countries that have increased their economic exchanges with the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993]

This news agency noted that after an almost complete hiatus of a few years, the United States has evolved into one of the main economic parties trading with Iran in the past two years. The volume of direct economic exchanges of this country with Iran in 1372 increased by 40 percent and were worth \$1.8 billion, while the volume of indirect exchanges exceeded \$3 billion.

Implications of U.S. Presence in Kuwait Viewed

NC0811112194 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
27 Oct 94 p 12

[Political commentary: "Volunteers for Downfall"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti Government has endorsed what is being discussed as the optional participation of Kuwaiti citizens in financing the deployment of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf. It has also been said that 25 percent of Kuwait's budget allocation for development has been reduced to fund the deployment of U.S. forces in Kuwait. By reducing the allocation for housing, education, and health, \$300 million will be saved. In addition, a percentage of the salaries of

government employees will be deducted to increase taxes, which will be added to the funds for maintaining the U.S. forces.

The fact that this scheme is being labeled optional participation in a plan which is basically opposed to the interests of national security and independence will not deceive anyone. There is no doubt that this is not a voluntary plan and the Kuwaiti officials have made the decision that the expenses for maintaining the U.S. forces should be extorted from the people. The reason is that government credits are not adequate and the expenses of the U.S. soldiers far exceed Kuwait's economic capability.

It is obvious that the United States will extort the expenses for the deployment of its forces and its occupation of the region from the Arab shaykhs. Accordingly, the regional shaykhs will have no recourse but to put pressure on the people for the heavy expenses of the U.S. soldiers. However, it is a source of tremendous amazement that the Arab rulers in the region have been beset by doubts with regard to U.S. objectives, which could end in toppling the dynastic governments in the region.

It is not the first time that the Kuwaiti shaykhs have faced such a dilemma. During the Iran-Iraq war, billions of dollars of the Iraqi people's resources were placed at Saddam Husayn's disposal and the world saw that strengthening Iraq financially was tantamount to nurturing a snake up one's sleeve, and how, instead of safeguarding Kuwait's security, Saddam embarked on its occupation.

It is certainly a source of astonishment that the powers that be in Kuwait should—instead of boosting their own strength, powers, and influence in the country—succumb to decisions that will weaken the bases of power of the ruling dynasty and put their credibility at home in question.

The differences in the current circumstances which resulted from the occupation of Kuwait by Saddam Husayn's forces is that Kuwait had been occupied by an Arab regime in the region and was liberated as a result of international pressure. However, now it has been occupied by the military forces of the United States—a country which decides international affairs—and thus, the occupation of Kuwait is now permanent.

The question that arises is: When the United States completes the circle of its occupation of Kuwait at the expense of the Kuwaiti people and when the U.S. military forces deployed in Kuwait gain access to Kuwait's financial resources, will the United States consider itself obliged to safeguard a government as backward as that of Kuwait? Ostensibly, the Kuwaiti shaykhs believe that in order to retain its military presence and to perpetuate it, the United States needs the shaykhs. It is on the basis of the same premise that priority is being given to satisfying the United States regarding the condition of the people.

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However, whenever the issue is viewed objectively or from the outside, the situation looks different.

The crux of the matter is that the Bill Clinton administration is under severe pressure from social forces and the Congress at home to bring about structural reforms in the medieval Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf region. Amid freedom-seeking and democratic slogans, the Clinton administration is trying to forge cliques in the Middle East with the support of the reactionary Arab regimes. It does not seem possible that it will ultimately be able to channel these activities toward preserving the power of the Arab dynasties that have lost their ability to adapt to the new circumstances in the region and in the world.

The United States will be forced, at some point, to extricate itself from these inept and ineffective regimes. It appears that the governments that are putting pressure on the people are enacting a complicated scenario [preceding word in English], the ultimate aim of which is to topple the shaykhs and to delegate power to new forces in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf which are more in conformity with the regional and international situation.

Of course, this does not mean that the United States will seek to get rid of the old-fashioned shaykhs right away. There seems no reason for any haste, as the shaykhs will have to accept certain extensive agreements before they are dispensed with so that there is no possibility of their people being liberated in the foreseeable future.

Thus, the Arab shaykhs should, as far as possible, destroy their own social bases so that when the will of the United States is imposed on its new pawns, there should be no major difficulty with regard to the people. If one views the actions of the Kuwaiti Government in putting pressure on the people to cover the astronomical expenditure for the U.S. soldiers, one can say that this action is undeniably analogous to the support of the Iraqi soldiers. The only difference is that in this case the initiative has been completely wrested from the hands of the Kuwaiti shaykhs.

There seems no plausible explanation as to why the echelons in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are unable to comprehend these equations. It seems that they have become reconciled to their fate and have reached the conclusion that political changes are inevitable. Therefore, they have decided to seize the moment. Volunteering to participate in bringing about changes in an amicable manner—perhaps because the present governments have displayed a conspicuously unintelligent approach—seems a positive approach on the part of Kuwait and one that could serve to protect it from becoming embroiled in civil strife to a certain extent.

However, as for their claims that the people are volunteering to contribute funds for the upkeep of the U.S. soldiers, one should view them cautiously. This is because the people cannot be considered responsible if governments agree to conditions that will facilitate their

downfall from power. The popular opinion that prevails is that people are generally aware of the dangers that threaten national security and cannot be so indifferent to them that they should contribute toward the occupation of their country, and voluntarily at that, as the Kuwaiti Government claims.

In any case, whether the Kuwaiti Government is seeking to impose the costs of maintaining the American soldiers on the people, voluntarily or under pressure from the U.S. forces, the results will be the same; that is, the destruction of the popular bases of the government will be expedited. This is exactly what the United States wants, and what can be better than that there will be no one to shed tears on the exit of the toppled rulers?

Iraqi Recognition of Kuwaiti Sovereignty Viewed

LD0911131294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 9 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] It looks as though Iraq will officially recognize Kuwait and its territorial integrity in accordance with Security Council Resolution 833, during today's visit to Baghdad by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

In the opinion of political analysts, recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity is an important step toward reducing tension and preventing potential crises in the region.

Since the national government of Iraq came into existence in 1920, that country has persistently made claims on Kuwait on the basis of administrative divisions under Ottoman rule. During the period of monarchy in Iraq, the British Government, which had both Iraq and Kuwait under its colonial power, saw those claims as running against its own policies and therefore refused to allow Iraq to encroach on Kuwait.

After the fall of Iraq's monarchical regime in 1958, Baghdad, freed of direct British influence, renewed its claim on Kuwait. Baghdad's military measures aimed at expanding its sovereignty and rule over Kuwait led to Britain and a number of other countries deploying forces in Kuwait. In the end, the conflict was suspended after mediation by the Arab League, especially after the coup in Baghdad in 1963.

After Iraq's imposed war against Iran and Baghdad's urgent need for money, Iraq's rulers cast their eyes on the riches of Kuwait, something which, unfortunately, led to the large-scale oil war, the tragic consequences of which continue to burden Iraq, Kuwait, and the entire region to this day.

Iraq's official recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity—if serious—will end this large-scale crisis and will remove the pretext for foreign interference

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in the region and in those countries' internal affairs. Unfortunately, the imbalance of power between Iraq and Kuwait has always meant that Kuwait turns to foreign forces to maintain its security. Although this approach reduces the threat from Iraq, it seriously endangers the independence and security of Kuwait and the other countries of the region at the same time. Current developments in the region clearly highlight this danger.

For political and security reasons, the Kuwaiti Government welcomes the Iraqi Government's recognition of its sovereignty and borders. However, the United States, thinking of its own interests, sees this Iraqi measure as insufficient and is trying, by fiercely opposing the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, to prolong the state of crisis in the region.

In other words, current developments in the region, especially since Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, reveal how damaging it can be to involve foreigners in the region's internal affairs and to what extent it can deprive regional players of the option of making independent political decisions. It can, therefore, be seen that the countries of the region, which are fated to live as neighbors, have no choice but to cooperate and to resolve disputes peacefully in order to remove any pretext for this troublesome and damaging presence and to end this interference in the region's affairs.

Rabin, Western Media Statements on Hamas Opposed

NC0511082594 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 5 Nov 94*

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the recent remarks by Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's prime minister, on the need to kill the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement Palestinians, a Zionist group assumed responsibility for killing a prominent Palestinian combatant yesterday.

This terrorist group announced that the bomb planted in the vehicle of one of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement, who was a professor at Gaza University, was a teeth-shattering message to Palestinians who oppose the existence of Israel.

Political observers say the collusion among the international mass media, Western governments, and human rights organizations is the main reason for these terrorist acts and the government-sponsored terrorism of Israel.

International mass media, especially news agencies that are mainly Western, constantly project Israel's terrorist actions as a reaction to the anti-Zionist struggle of the Palestinian people and strive to depict the cause as the

effect. This is while the struggle of the combatant Palestinian Muslim people, whose homeland has been usurped by a handful of aggressors, enjoys political and legal legitimacy and has been officially recognized by international regulations.

In other words, the Western mass media are playing a mischief-making role and instead of presenting the occupation of Palestine as the main reason for the Middle East crisis refer to the rightful struggle of the Palestinian people as terroristic actions and portray all actions to combat it as justified.

Regarding the role of Western governments in the proliferation of the Zionist regime's government-sponsored terrorism, one can state that the financial, military, and political support of the West for this despotic regime is the most important factor for the continuation of this criminal trend. Western countries have constantly prevented any chastisement of this despotic regime in international circles and place all instruments of repression and crime at the disposal of this regime. Thus, in the eyes of the Muslim people of the region, they are accomplices in the crimes of the Zionist regime against the Palestinians.

The human rights organizations are also implicitly responsible for the spread and continuation of the Zionist regime's government-sponsored terrorism. These organizations which, for entirely political reasons, take stances against some countries, become blind and deaf when it comes to Israel and its terroristic actions against the oppressed Palestinian people. At times, even if these organizations do mention some terroristic actions of the Zionist regime, only a very small segment of what is actually happening in occupied Palestine is reflected.

Israeli Partition of Hebron Mosque Condemned

LD0811185194 *Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 8 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman here Tuesday condemned the Qods occupying regime for its "unjust" partition of the al-Khalil mosque and the recent assassination of Gaza University Instructor Hani Abed.

Spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the Zionist regime has stepped up its crime as a result of the recent compromise and the support of certain Arab states to break its isolation. He also warned against intensification of such terrorist measures in the region.

Mohammadi said the "mischievous" partition of the al-Khalil mosque was an indication of the deep-rooted Zionist enmity for Islam and Muslims.

He said the signing of peace accords with the Zionists will not bring about any changes in the terrorist nature of the usurpers of the holy Qods. Rather, such accords would increase their mischiefs in the region.

The spokesman voiced the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong protest against the Zionist usurpation of a major part of al-Khalil mosque which houses the tomb of Prophet Abraham, and said the Muslim community insists on its restoration.

Objectives of Casablanca Summit Criticized

NC0611131794 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
31 Oct 94 p 12

[Political commentary: "The Casablanca Session"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The city of Casablanca in Morocco became the venue for a meeting of politico-economic delegations from nearly 60 countries. While this session is being attended by the private sector and has no governmental bias, it is geared toward particular objectives. The fact that Syria, Libya, Iran, and Iraq are not participating serves to dilute its North African-Middle East front. However, the objectives envisioned are so important that they merit a realistic appraisal.

The main objective of the Casablanca session is to induct Israel into the regional economic framework in the Middle East and North Africa. This objective assumes importance viewed as analogous to the first Camp David Accord, which touted the political existence of the Zionists in the Middle East. The objective of the Casablanca session is to merge the Zionist regime's economy into the region and, if viewed seriously, one can say that the Israeli economy in Casablanca is being presented as an acceptable regional economy.

Perhaps the importance of this may not be comprehended correctly, but the United States and Israel have placed economic compromise on the agenda immediately after political compromise. We can thus state that the political compromise was the precursor to an economic compromise to initiate the Israeli economy into the economy of the region. [passage omitted]

The Casablanca session will open the doors of the prosperous Arab markets to the goods and services of Israel or at least indicate that these doors will not be closed forever. The unfulfilled dream of a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates did not materialize—for particular reasons. Realism dictates that international Zionism should make it possible for Israel to seek to achieve the economic occupation of the Arab world. At least this will be the prelude for achieving its long-term political goals.

No one can doubt that the Zionist regime enjoys technological and technical resources and has the necessary manpower to usurp the Arab world's markets. Whether this has been bestowed on it extraneously will make no difference to its strategic predominance in every sphere. International conditions are in the throes of change and the economies of Europe and the United States are under immense pressure from other fast-emerging economic powers.

Europe and the United States are seeking to mitigate the burden of the astronomical expenditure they have endured for the past half century to keep the Zionist regime intact in occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

There can be no doubt that when the Middle Eastern and North African markets are placed at the disposal of Israel, this country will not need its annuity from the United States and Europe. The Arab world is in a historically defensive position. The Zionists will take control of their fate in no time. The only element that can decrease this danger is the resistance of the Muslim nations. Otherwise, these governments will link their perpetuation to affiliation with Zionism and will provide facilities for the Zionist regime.

The three forces of world imperialism, international Zionism, and reactionary Arabism are poised against the Muslim Arab and non-Arab nations in the Middle East and if the people do not realize the dangers they will suffer a historical defeat.

No one can be content with mere slogans in such a situation. The Zionist entity is in the process of consolidation—politically and economically. The Arab governments are donning the fetters of bondage around their necks one after another in the vain hope of clinging to power. The United States and Europe have projected the impression that bowing to Israel is a necessary requisite for retaining power. The race in the Arab world to join in this surrender can only be comprehended in light of this equation. [passage omitted]

The Arab and Muslim nations of the region are on the brink of a fateful choice. The governments see their perpetuation in cooperation with imperialism and Zionism and that is why they have formed a united front against their own people. If the Arab people comprehend the situation and combine their ranks against Zionism and reactionary Arabism they will have the strength to prevent their countries being subjugated. Otherwise, they should expect their national independence to be destroyed in another form and they will be shackled in bondage again.

The Arab world has come through many difficulties. If it is imagined that the conditions will constantly favor the usurpers, they are laboring under a delusion. The deviant path being followed by the Arab governments away from that of their Arab people is not a durable one; a clash will erupt some time. We see these signs in most Arab countries. We can only wait and see when this will come to pass in the various countries.

Camp David is no different from Casablanca. In the turbulent Arab world everything appears ephemeral. But you cannot deny that this temporary situation may, under particular circumstances, extend even further than the Arab Muslim nations expect.

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Paper Criticizes Saudis on Military Base Accord

*LD0811131194 Tehran IRNA in English 1214 GMT
8 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A Persian daily on Tuesday [8 November] criticized Saudi Arabia for its agreement to give military bases on its territory to the U.S., saying the Saudis were bent on plundering the national wealth of that country.

"Oil, this black gold which is the biggest wealth of the Saudi Arabian people, is exported at a cheap price to the West and the funds are funneled to western countries to keep up their arms factories now in serious economic troubles," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in a commentary. Western countries are systematically continuing their arms shipments to Saudi Arabia although that country does not need so many weapons at all, the daily said.

Huge amounts of U.S.-made weapons pouring into Saudi Arabia (exceeding dls. 30 billion over the past four years) has dealt a fatal blow on the already ailing economy of that country, the commentary said.

In making compromise with the Zionists and preparing the ground for Israel's domination over the region, the Saudis as vanguards of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council have overpassed even rulers of Tel Aviv.

Commentary Views Developments in Azerbaijan

*NC0811130394 Tehran SALAM in Persian
21 Oct 94 p 12*

[Unattributed commentary: "Azerbaijan—An Agreement, a Coup d'Etat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the past two months, incidents in the Republic of Azerbaijan have been making the headlines almost constantly.

The signing of an oil agreement with a consortium of several European companies, Russia's strong and unexpected opposition to this agreement, continued attacks by the Armenian Army on various areas in Karabakh despite the cease fire agreement, and—most important of all—the uncovering of a military plot by Suret Guseynov, which Aliyev refers to as a coup d'etat, were among the most important incidents in that country.

Each one of these developments can be studied and examined separately. But since all these incidents are basically interlinked and constitute the links in a chain, they should be examined together so that the reasons behind Guseynov's coup d'etat, which is the last and most important development, can be understood.

A year ago conflicting reports were published on the possibility of an agreement on oil exploration in the Caspian Sea between the Government of Azerbaijan and a European consortium. At that time, these reports were not taken seriously. However, they were not refuted by

the Baku government either. As to why the reports were not taken seriously and why the Baku government did not refute them, we should look to Aliyev, who is matchless in his ability to control political crises and who is expertly putting to use everything that he learned when he was a member of the former USSR Politburo. It should not be forgotten that the signing of an agreement with foreign companies was among those issues which had placed Elchibey's government under question, and it was by exploiting the disputes that had emerged that Aliyev cooperated with Guseynov and forced Elchibey to step down. Although Elchibey's removal was not the direct outcome of his agreement with the European consortium, it is considered to be one of the major reasons.

Since mid-May, economic observers in the region have claimed that Azerbaijan was in the final stages of an agreement with a consortium made up of British, French, and Dutch companies and that it was highly possible that by early 1995 the sale of Azerbaijani oil would have negative impacts on the world oil market.

At that time—apparently under political pressure from Russia and, possibly, by Tehran—the Azerbaijani Government reacted coldly. But it slyly managed to convince Moscow and Tehran that the discussions with the consortium were not serious and that even if they were, they would merely concern exploration activities and that the digging and export of oil would remain in the hands of the Azerbaijani Government.

The issue of oil extraction in the Caspian Sea can be studied from two entirely different angles:

1. The political angle and its geostrategic impacts;
2. The technical, financial, and ecological and environmental angle.

As far as oil cooperation in the Caspian Sea is concerned—and in view of the important role that this sea can play in creating either goodwill or hostility—its political angle is of greater importance. The ecological angle which has been especially underlined by the Russians is not a new issue since, during the era of the Soviet Union, they were constantly accused of causing damage to the environment.

At any rate, what happened later on showed that the rumors on the agreement were true. But meanwhile, Aliyev was able to harness the wave of opposition from the Russians very well, and, to a large extent, from Iran as well.

About a month and a half ago, when it was officially announced that the Government of Azerbaijan had reached an agreement with a British-Dutch-French consortium to explore, extract, and export oil, many political observers forecast unexpected developments to take place in the Caucasus. However, no concrete picture of what these developments would be was offered. But

forecasting the Russians' action against this agreement which ignored their role in the region was based on several strong pivots:

1. Encouraging Armenia to continue its attacks and to occupy a more vast area of Azerbaijani territory;
2. Strengthening the Russian Navy in the west of the Caspian Sea;
3. Cooperating with Iran to place pressures on Aliyev's government;
4. Placing Baku under pressure to repay its loans to Moscow;
5. Provoking Elchibey and Gumbatov to threaten to dismember and to grant independence to Nakhichevan and the Talysh areas;
6. The departure of Russian experts from the Azerbaijani oil industries;
7. Coming to terms, in a way, with Aliyev and granting him special concessions.

It is not very clear whether the Russians have accomplished all these things or not. Only as far as pressures through Iran are concerned, various contacts were made. But no precise information is available on the outcome of these contacts. However, some diplomatic sources say that Russia was not very warmly received by Iran—at least, it was unable to adopt a common viewpoint with Iran. The same sources say that it is not very surprising for these reports to be correct since in view of Iran's technical operations in the form of oil and gas exploration in the Caspian Sea, it is only natural for Iran's disagreements to be limited. Also, even if the Government of Iran wants to view the issue from a political point of view, it is not unwilling to limit the sphere of activities of the Russians in the region. Therefore, so much the better if these limitations are imposed through Azerbaijan.

An OPEC oil expert has also said that in view of the elementary nature of the Russians' oil exploration equipment in the Caspian—that is, the same equipment that the Iranian Petroleum Ministry is using—Iran's oil officials seem to be willing to benefit from Azerbaijan's modern technology in the field.

At any rate, irrespective of whether the Russians have accomplished all the above or not, their future behavior was fully foreseen by Aliyev. The possibility of a coup and by whom the coup would be hatched was something that only Aliyev could foresee. Actually, he was able to distract the course of events and to make the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries run in circles.

No one could have foreseen that Aliyev's prime minister would attempt a coup. But this improbability became a probability. Exactly one week before Suret Guseynov's coup, Aliyev sparked an artificial but harnessed situation and pushed the country toward a crisis on the pretext of which he fired and prosecuted Guseynov.

According to some reports from early September, Guseynov held at least six private meetings with some

Russian officers. During the same time, he held talks with the Russian commander of the armored brigade in the Caucasus. Meanwhile, the sending of various envoys secretly to Moscow all spoke of his strange behavior. These overtures were not something that could have been kept secret from Aliyev, who is friends with at least half of the current advisers in the Kremlin. But he slyly granted Guseynov a larger arena to operate in.

Plunging into this larger arena was one of the major mistakes by Guseynov and Kozyrev, who represents the anti-Aliyev faction among Russians. Actually, these two should have regarded this action by Aliyev as out of the ordinary. And the only thing that Aliyev had to do was to wait and see when things would happen.

Guseynov's confidential meeting with Marshal Shaposhnikov, the abnormal calm in the Karabakh war zones, the extensive movement of two armored brigades in northern Baku, the demonstrations in Nakhichevan, and Guseynov's sudden disappearance from the country's political scene convinced Aliyev that extraordinary conditions were emerging in the country.

Aliyev actually circumvented everything that was taking place in front of him and, in an unexpected move, ordered a siege on the armored units around Baku, while in a letter to parliament, he informed it of the dismissal of Guseynov. By so doing, he both actually removed all the possibilities for a military movement and also arrested the element who intended to carry out a coup. Although a careful examination of Guseynov's coup attempt needs time, it should be said that this attempt strongly threatened the Russians' position in the region.

Whether the consortium will succeed in its objectives or not does not depend on the Russians' views today. The Russians' instruments have been severely blunted. Some experts believe that Aliyev has convinced, or will convince, the Russians to cooperate rather than to confront. This may be so because Moscow is not in a position to confront, especially when it does not enjoy the strong support by some of the Caspian Sea littoral countries.

Probably this discussion's tone of extreme pessimism may be regarded as excessive. But the developments and changes in the Caspian Sea, even if viewed solely from the ecological aspect, are not to our benefit. Aliyev's behavior has proven this.

Turkmenistan's Shikhmuradov Arrives for Visit

*LD0811133494 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT
8 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Turkmen Vice President Shikhmuradov arrived here Tuesday on a one-day official visit and was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon his arrival, Shikhmuradov termed as "very important" laying of pipelines for export of Turkmen natural

gas to Europe via Iranian territory. He expressed hope that executive operations for the giant project would start as soon as possible. He also called for further cooperation among Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states and Caspian Sea littoral states.

The Turkmen vice president thanked President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his participation in Turkmenistan's independence celebrations held in Ashgabat early November.

Velayati in return said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was of the view that the gas pipeline project for carrying Turkmen natural gas to Europe should be completed as soon as possible. He said laying of the pipelines via Iranian and Turkish territories would benefit all regional countries.

Pointing to the crisis in Afghanistan, Velayati said that Iran has been making utmost efforts to end infighting in that country.

Predeparture Comments Reported

LD0811213794 Tehran IRNA in English 2114 GMT
8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Deputy President of Turkmenistan for Political Affairs Shikhmuradov left Tehran for Ashgabat at the conclusion of his one-day official visit today. He was seen off at the airport by the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In an interview with IRNA minutes before his departure, Shikhmuradov said he had discussed the ways and means for implementing agreements between Iran and Turkmenistan. He said in the near future five Caspian Sea states including Iran would sign an agreement for developing their relations and protecting the marine environment. Besides Iran and Turkmenistan, the other countries having access to Caspian waters are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

Velayati, for his part, said the relations between Iran and Turkmenistan is an excellent example of good neighbourly relations in the region. He said a project for conduiting Turkmen gas to Europe via Iran was an important topic discussed between Shikhmuradov and the Iranian officials.

Velayati said Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i would shortly visit Ashgabat. He added Iran and Turkmenistan have very close outlooks in relation to the situation in Afghanistan and are determined to end confrontations in that country.

Industries Minister Meets With Japanese Envoy

LD0711151394 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT
7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Ways of expanding Tehran-Tokyo relations, especially in

industrial area, was discussed in a meeting between Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh and Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Ohara Takeshi, here Monday.

Ne'matzadeh said that the second five year economic development plan underlined the need for increasing domestically made products and attaining self-sufficiency. For this reason, added Ne'matzadeh, Iran is interested in expanding cooperation with Japan and carrying out joint ventures.

Referring to an annual 8 percent industrial growth envisaged in the second development plan, Ne'matzadeh said the plan attached great importance to organizing auto making industries, manufacturing equipment and to training of manpower. The two sides also discussed credit problems between the two countries, relations between Iranian and Japanese companies and Japan's investments in Iran.

Canadian Envoy Cited on Refugees, Trade, Terror

LD0711134694 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT
7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Esfahan, Nov. 7, IRNA—Canadian Ambassador to Iran Donald P. McLennan said here Sunday [6 November] that the warm hospitality accorded to refugees by Iran should be recognized and appreciated by the international community. Speaking to IRNA, McLennan said the Canadian Government also praised the Islamic Republic for its constructive role in settling regional disputes and in fighting trafficking at international level.

Commenting on terrorism, he said the Canadian Government's stance against terrorism was the same as Iran's. He cited the bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) as an example of terrorist acts.

McLennan, currently here on a three-day visit to the province, [said that] since the province played an important role from political, cultural and economic point of view, it was necessary for him to visit it.

On an Iranian solo trade exhibition to be held in Toronto next week with participation of 62 companies, he said the exhibit would be a step towards boosting trade ties between the two countries. He put the value of trade exchanges between Iran and Canada at between 550 million and 600 million dollars. "Wheat accounts for half of the 350 million dollar Canadian export to Iran while the Islamic Republic exports \$250m worth of crude oil, \$25m worth of hand-woven carpets and \$10m worth of pistachios.

Proposing diversification of exports by both countries, McLennan said that Canada was ready to export such commodities as telecommunication systems, air traffic control systems and agricultural technology to Iran.

Nepal

Party Leaders Campaign for General Election

LD0711173494 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English
1415 GMT 7 Nov

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nepali Congress leader and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said that the forthcoming election [on 15 November] aims to put an end to the politics of anarchy, terror, and vandalism, and achieve national upliftment through development. Prime Minister Koirala made this remark when addressing a mass meeting organized by Nepali Congress [word indistinct] at (?Tripaklisadh), the (?Nyangdung) district headquarters today.

Prime Minister Koirala called for cooperation of all in conducting the poll in a free, fair, and peaceful manner. Communism, which is disappearing from the world, can never rise over the Nepalese horizon, he said, and noted that the time has come for the people to be alert about Rashtriya Prajatantra Party [National Democratic Party], which is just another name of panchayat.

In (?Madhpuli) [word indistinct], Prime Minister Koirala said a dynamic, strong, stable and effective government is the need of the hour. Likewise, addressing a mass meeting organized by the Nepali Congress [word indistinct] district working committee at (?Budmul) today, party president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai observed that except the Nepali Congress, all other parties going to the hustings now and calling themselves democrats are either extreme leftists or extreme rightists. Such forces lead the country on the path of destruction, not development and caution.

CPN-UML [Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist] General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal, speaking at a program organized by the party's [word indistinct] district committee at the office of the business chamber of commerce and industry yesterday, claimed that his party would form the next government. He also gave the assurance that once voted to power, CPN-UML would take effective measures in the fields of administration and social works and [words indistinct] the country's development process by solving trade and industrial problems.

Sadbhavana Party has demanded that His Majesty's government and the election commission pay serious attention to the present deteriorating law and order situation and the sense of insecurity among the voters and build a congenial atmosphere for the forthcoming elections.

Pakistan

Malakand Situation 'Normal'; Hostages Freed

BK0811135494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The situation in Malakand Division is completely normal. All the hostages have

been released by TNSM [Tanzim Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Mohammadi] activists. Traffic between Mingaora and Shahdu Sharif is running smoothly and no untoward incident have been reported.

Minister, PRC Provincial Delegation Discuss Ties

BK0811143894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Chinese delegation led by Vice Chairman of Xinjiang Province of China Mr. Li Donghui called on the federal minister for Kashmir affairs and northern areas, Mohammad Afzal Khan, in Islamabad today. Bilateral matters between the two countries pertaining to economic cooperation and strengthening existing ties came under discussion during the meeting. The head of the Chinese delegation showed keen interest in establishing hydroelectric power plants and cement projects in the northern areas.

Sri Lanka

Voting Begins in National Presidential Election

Tight Security Set Up

BK0911023594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0214 GMT 9 Nov 94

[Report by Anosh Ahamath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 9 (AFP)—Voting got underway in Sri Lanka's presidential election Wednesday [9 November] amid tight security prompted by a bloody election campaign and fears of further violence on polling day.

Some 10,000 polling stations manned by 38,500 armed police opened at dawn in the 22 electoral districts for a nine-hour voting period. Some 10.9 million people are eligible to vote.

Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga is among six candidates vying to become Sri Lanka's fourth executive president. However, the contest is expected to be a showdown between Kumaratunga and opposition candidate Srma Dissanayake.

Security was stepped up after a bomb explosion believed to have been set off by Tamil guerrillas killed Dissanayake's husband Gamini and 56 others at an October 24 election rally here.

Gamini Dissanayake was the original candidate from the opposition United National Party (UNP), which decided to appoint his widow as the party's candidate after his death.

Two independent candidates and two others from minor parties also in the presidential race. In a joint appeal, the candidates called for calm and asked on voters to ensure a violence-free election.

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The opposition has expressed fears of post-election violence against its supporters and called on the government to impose a night curfew to prevent trouble after polling ends.

Night curfews have been enforced at previous elections to prevent rival supporters from taking to the streets to celebrate and also to attack each other's opponents.

Kumaratunga for her part set up a separate unit to handle complaints of election-related violence in addition to a special police unit already formed for the purpose.

In the only violence reported so far on the eve of the poll the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) staged an abortive suicide attack on a navy landing craft off the northern coast.

The attack, which left four security personnel wounded and seven LTTE cadres dead caused further embarrassment to Kumaratunga, who initiated peace talks with the LTTE last month.

Kumaratunga, whose politician-husband was assassinated in 1988, is tipped to win the battle of the widows but Dissanayake has turned the election into a referendum on the LTTE.

The LTTE, which has been blamed by the opposition for Dissanayake's assassination, has also been held responsible for the slaying of several other Sri Lankan leaders, including former president Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"The question you have to answer is this: should the future of our country be dictated by the LTTE. If your answer is No, then please vote for me," Dissanayake said in a message to voters.

Political analysts, who expected Kumaratunga to score a runaway win at the outset of the campaign, believe her vote-base had been dented to a certain extent by the Dissanayake killing.

Kumaratunga had been campaigning on the same plank that brought her ruling People's Alliance to power at the August 16 general elections—bribery and corruption and alleged human rights abuses by the former UNP regime.

Night Curfew To Be Imposed

BK0911071694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan military Wednesday [9 November] announced that it would be imposing a 10-hour night curfew to prevent violence in the aftermath of the presidential elections.

The curfew would be briefly lifted for a four-hour period on Thursday before being enforced again for a further 19-hour period, military spokesman Gemunu Kulatunge said.

"Police and the armed services have been issued with specific instructions to ensure that the curfew is strictly enforced. The public is requested to assist the police and armed forces to maintain law and order," Kulatunge said.

The military has also banned convoys and processions by party supporters even during non-curfew hours to prevent violence.

The opposition had urged Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga to enforce a curfew because they feared any post-election violence would be directed against their supporters. Night curfews have been enforced at previous elections.

'Calm' Prevails

BK0911112194 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT
9 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voting in the presidential elections ended at 1600 today. No violence has been reported from any part of the country. There is a calm situation prevailing in the island. Over 10 million Sri Lankans voted in the elections at 9,580 polling centers. Six candidates are contesting. They are Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga of the People's Alliance; Nihal Jayaraj of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front; Srimala Dias of the United National Party; A.J. Ranasinghe, Independent; Dr. Harishchandra Wijetunga of the Sinhalaya Mahasammatha Bhumi Putra Party; and Hudson Samarasinghe, Independent. The six candidates have stressed the need to conduct the elections in an atmosphere free of abuse and violence. The elections are being monitored by international observers.

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